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Love your kitchen

9 little, low-cost changes

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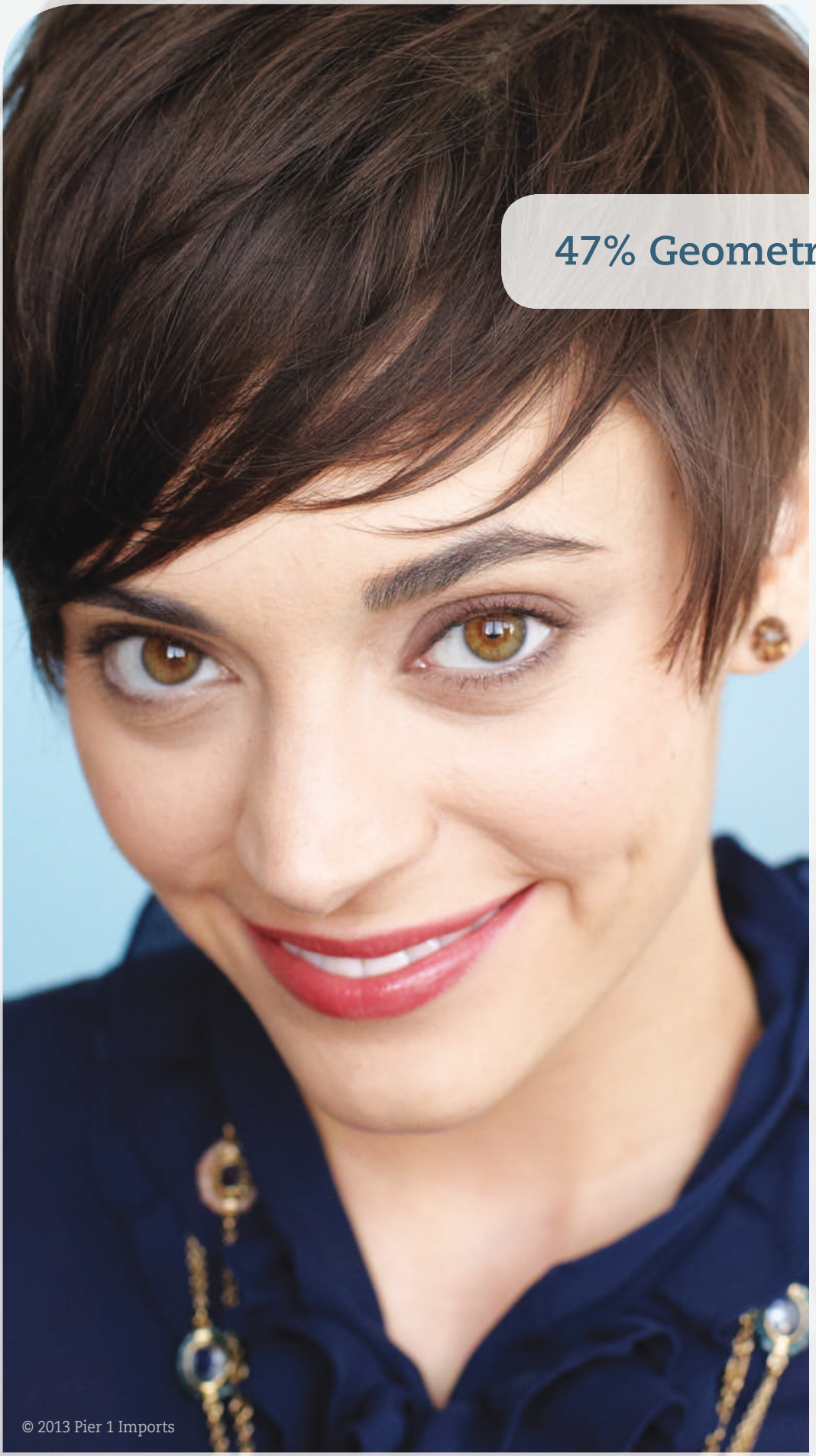

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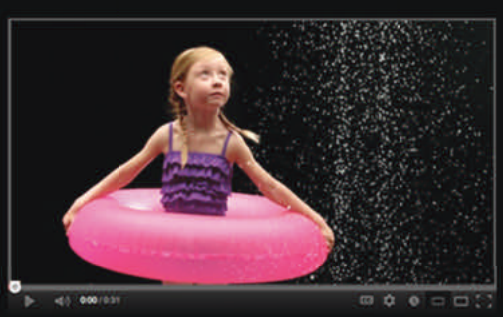

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TAP TO VIEW COMMERCIAL

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HGTV magazine

come on in!

front door of the month

light
Hood 14"-diameter porch pendant, $367, rejuvenation.com

thermometer
Blanc Fleur indoor/outdoor thermometer, $70, lampsplus.com

door
Primed poplar two-panel arched 4082-A exterior door, $325, rogue valleydoor.com; paint: Frosted Pomegranate by Behr; Baldwin Prestige single cylinder Pistoria handle set in Venetian bronze, $160, homedepot.com; large key door knocker, $40, signature hardware.com; Stella house numbers, $12 each, potterybarn.com

outdoor bench
Amalfi bench, $199, grandinroad.com

doorbell
Rustico aged bronze doorbell, $42, atlashomewares.com

pillow
Jiti Alvin 12" x 20" outdoor pillow, $70, outdoorpillowsonly.com

boot scraper
Cast-iron boot scraper, $80, eddiebauer.com

doormat
Xoxo coir 18" x 30" doormat, $32, tag2u.com

DOOR: AARON DYER; DOORBELL: J MUCKLE/STUDIO D; PRODUCED BY KATE DOHERTY AND ANTHONY SANTELLI

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French Twist inner frame and Old World outer frame
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PORTRAIT: DAVID A. LAND; FLOWERS: ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D

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BIRDS: SHUTTERSTOCK; FEEDER: AARON DYER; PORTRAIT: LAURA MOSS; RAMEKINS: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

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it's 2013! let's make over our resolutions

In 2009, I told myself I'd plant a vegetable garden and make fresh salads weekly. Never did it. In 2010, I said I would overhaul my bathroom to be big enough for (yes!) a chandelier and a claw-foot tub. Oops, that one fell through the cracks. I recycled the garden resolution in 2011 (repeat failure), then skipped resolutions entirely for 2012. But I will make good in 2013! Because this time around, I'm getting real with my New Year's resolutions. My goals may be small, but there's big victory in following through on them. Does what I'm saying sound familiar? Let me know. If you're downsizing your resolutions, tell me about them. What are you *really* setting out to do this year? Great ideas often come from readers, and I may zip through my list (below) so fast that I'll need help adding to it before next New Year's. :)

1. Stop setting my bedside clock 10 minutes ahead in a silly effort to think I have more time than I really do. Who am I fooling?

2. Stock up on printer ink cartridges for my desk drawer. It's so annoying when I want to print something at 8 p.m. and I'm out of ink.

3. Say good morning to my neighbors. In "normal" parts of America, this is an obvious one, but in crowded New York City, neighbors don't talk to one another that much—especially in the elevator on weekday mornings. Boo on that. I'm going to do it anyway.

4. Buy the postage stamps that make me smile. They're the same price as the standard ones, so why not take home the bonsai trees/butterflies/national parks/Hawaiian T-shirts?

5. Stir the coffee in my French press with a wooden chopstick. Why? Because the directions say, "stir coffee grounds and hot water with a wooden spoon," but a wooden spoon is too big! A coffee-smart friend told me to use a chopstick. Very clever.

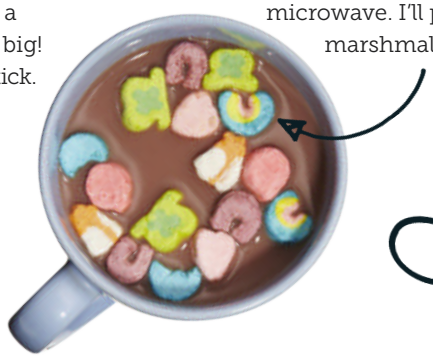
6. Wear rubber gloves when I'm doing the dishes—and cleaning the bathroom. No more wrinkly, bleach-smelling hands, thank you very much.

7. Clean my baseboards with a dryer sheet. I read this tip in an old housecleaning book while dillydallying around a used bookstore, and—guess what?—it works!

8. Decant my dish soap into a glass bottle by the kitchen sink. Magazine stylists do it all the time, and I'm going to steal this move.

9. Put dimmers on more overhead lights. Lighting experts always tell me this is how they stay happiest at home. Even the bathroom light gets a dimmer. Sounds good to me.

10. Give up making hot cocoa for my 6-year-old nephew and my 4-year-old niece. They really just want chocolate milk heated up in the microwave. I'll put Lucky Charms marshmallows on top.



EMAIL ME at hgtvmagazine@hearst.com, and follow me on Twitter. @HGTVMagSara

Sara

Sara Peterson
Editor in Chief

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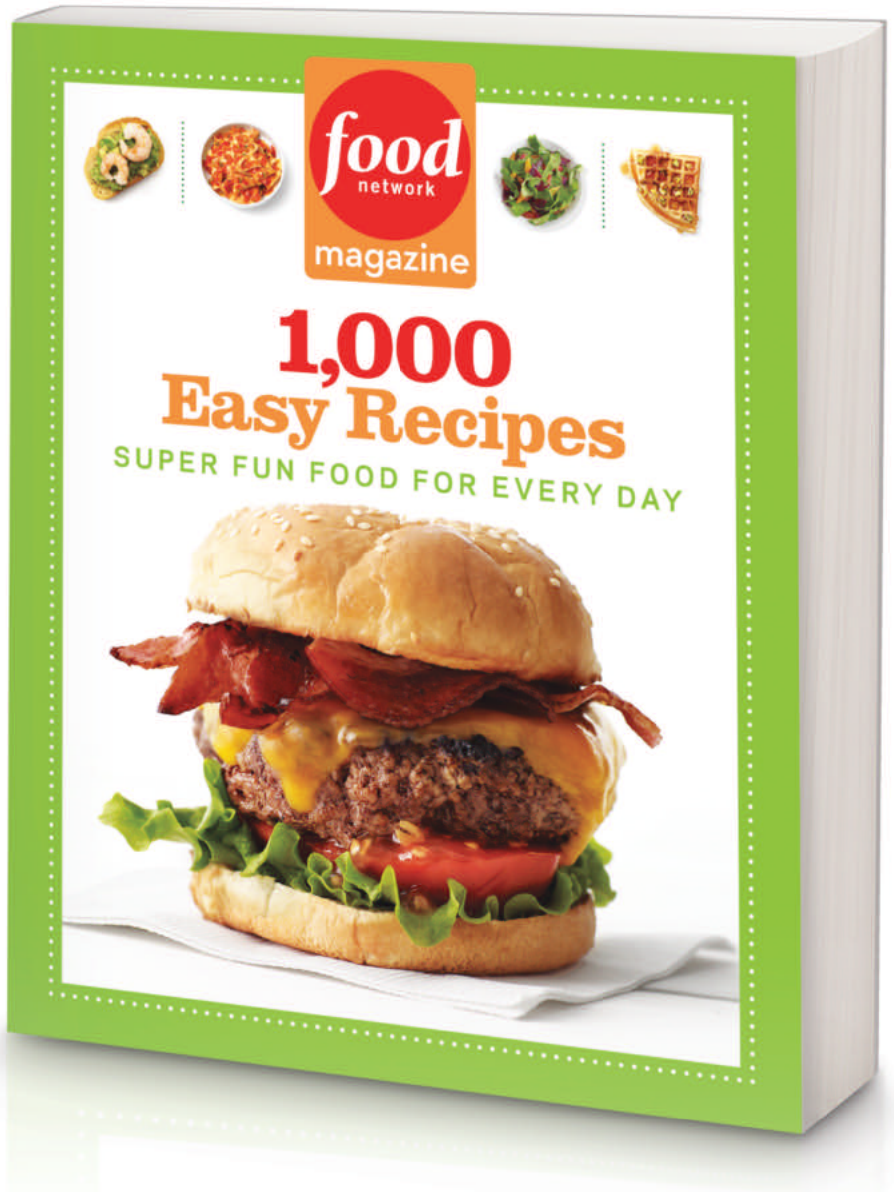

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dear HGTV magazine

We've been fans of HGTV for years, and now we're hooked on the magazine. All of the vibrant colors in your October/November issue, especially the orange chair on the cover, inspired us to redo our dull taupe family room. It's a small area, so rather than paint all the walls bright orange, we used painter's tape to add a dramatic stripe. We get raves whenever we have guests over—and we owe it all to you.

—Rick French and Mike Sciortino, Cathedral City, CA

I'm a teen, so most people expect me to read fashion magazines, but I always pull out *HGTV Magazine* instead! You have helped me turn my dark, "teenage angst-y" bedroom into a colorful space that makes me smile, even after a bad day at school. My favorite changes are the frames I spray-painted and my bright Flor carpet tiles. I can't wait to get my own house so I can fill it with clever ideas.

—Paige Carey, Baltimore, MD

I sit on pins and needles waiting for each new issue of your magazine. The House Tours section—awesome. The makeovers—fantastic. "The High/Low List"—stunning. It's my obsession!

—Becky Walker, Kuttawa, KY

I was so excited to see your story on using sample jars of paint ("Big Punch With Little Pots of Paint") in the October/November issue. It just so happens I redid a bar cabinet I found in the trash by painting the inside with a sample pot of blue paint. It was the perfect amount!

—Lynne Davidson, Hallandale Beach, FL

In "The High/Low List" in your September issue, you featured a leaf-pattern rug from rugsusa.com. I loved the design—and the price—so much that I bought it, and it really makes our dining room pop. This is just one example of how your magazine inspires me.

—Marilyn Killian, Lawrenceburg, TN

I just bought my first issue of *HGTV Magazine,* and I had to tell you how thrilled I was. I read the most recent issue cover to cover, putting sticky notes all over it to mark the great tips and finds.

—Sylvie Nobert, Sainte-Julie, Quebec

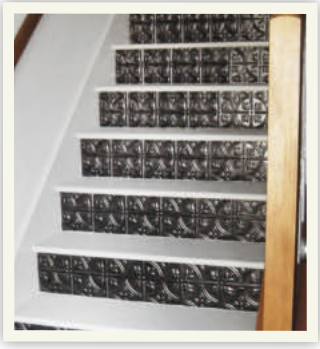
TALK TO US
Email us at **hgtvmagazine@hearst.com** or write to HGTV Magazine, 300 W. 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.

YOU SHOWED US!

We asked to see your recent makeovers. Here are a few of our favorites:

"I've owned this old dresser for years. Your magazine encouraged me to give it a bold and colorful facelift!"

—Heather Fisher, Las Vegas, NV



"I covered my stair risers with plastic backsplash panels that look like fancy tin tiles. They were easy to attach with tape."

—Phyllis Rich Carpenter, Dallas, GA

"I'm a first-time homeowner with little remodeling experience, but I knew I had to redo my front door once I saw your June/July issue!"

—Ivet Fortun, Los Angeles, CA

FOR THE PAINT COLORS USED IN THESE PROJECTS, SEE PAGE 116.

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300 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019; hgtv.com/magazine

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help wanted

what do you want your house to **smell** like?

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PHOTOGRAPH BY **AARON DYER** PRODUCED BY **KATE DOHERTY**

clean laundry

Drawer fresheners in classic clean scent, $8 for a set of 3, fresh-threads.com

Febreze Air Effects pet odor eliminator in fresh & clean scent, $4, grocery stores

Vacuum beads in line dried scent, $16, goodhome.com

Diffuser in fluffy towels scent, $22, yankeecandle.com

White Barn candle in cotton scent, $20, bathandbodyworks.com

lavender

Dog shampoo in lavender scent, $9, eco-me.com

Diffuser in lavender scent, $33, mangiacotti.com

Candle in lavender scent, $30, crabtree-evelyn.com

Gain dryer sheets in lavender scent, $7 for 120, soap.com

Pine-Sol cleaner in lavender clean scent, $4, grocery stores

fresh herbs

AB Home diffuser in arugula scent, $59, shoparchipelago.com

Dish soap in herb garden scent, $7, begleysbest.com

Toilet bowl cleaner in basil scent, $5, mrsmeyers.com

Linen and room spray in basil blue sage scent, $9, caldrea.com

Botanicals Collection candle in rosemary eucalyptus scent, $13, paddywax.com

citrus

Cucina kitchen mist in Sanguinelli orange and fennel scent, $20, fruits-passion.com

TasselAire fragrant tassel in bitter orange scent, $35, agrariahome.com

Green Works all-purpose cleaner in lemon scent, $4, alice.com

Diffuser in Meyer lemon scent, $25, williams-sonoma.com

Pop candle in grapefruit scent, $38, jonathanadler.com

a pine forest

Dishwashing liquid in Frasier fir scent, $11.50, thymes.com

Diffuser in firewood scent, $35, henribendel.com

Seasons Collection candle in juniper twig scent, $28.50, aspenbaycandles.com

Seventh Generation tub & tile cleaner in Emerald cypress & fir scent, $3.50, alice.com

Clothing-freshening blocks in cedar scent, $24.50 for a set of 24, stacksandstacks.com

...and if you don't want your house to smell like anything at all, try:

Bona hardwood floor cleaner, $8.50, Bed Bath & Beyond stores

Ultra Palmolive Pure + Clear dish soap, $6, grocery stores

Bounce Free & Sensitive dryer sheets, $8 for 120, drugstore.com

Fragrance Free all purpose cleaner, $5, grabgreenhome.com

GREG MARINO/STUDIO D; ICONS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: SHUTTERSTOCK (4); DAVID COOK/BLUESHIFTSTUDIOS/ALAMY

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...to open a store credit card just for the initial discount?

A: Saving an extra 20% off your purchase may sound like a great deal when you're standing at the register with an armful of clothes, but, ultimately, store credit cards can be risky, says John Ulzheimer, president of consumer education at smartcredit.com, a credit management site. For starters, these cards carry high interest rates and heavy late fees. "Incur one or two fees and you've wiped out the discount you got when you opened the card," says Ulzheimer. Plus, every time you apply for a new card, you get something called a "credit inquiry" on your credit report, which can lower your credit score. If your score drops from good to fair, you might have to pay higher interest rates on future big-ticket purchases—costing you thousands more if, say, you buy a new car or refinance your home. Store cards also usually come with low credit limits, so if you charge just a few things, you could eat up the amount of available credit you have—another credit-score killer. If you open one, use it a few times a year and pay off the balance right away to keep your score on the upside.

BOTTOM LINE: *sorta bad!*

...to wipe down wood furniture with water?

A: If you've seen white rings or blotches on a wood tabletop, you know the damage that H2O can inflict on a piece of furniture. But as long as you spritz the water onto a cloth—not onto the wood itself—and make sure to wipe the surface dry, it's perfectly safe. In fact, a damp rag is a great option for quickly conquering dust, says Brooklyn, NY–based antiques restorer Christophe Pourny. Try using water solo, or, for extra cleaning power, fill a spray bottle with water and mix in a few drops of mild soap, tea-tree oil, or white vinegar. Spray the rag with the solution, then wipe it over your furniture. Follow with a dry cloth.

BOTTOM LINE: *not bad at all!*

...to hide a spare house key under your doormat?

A: Stashing your key anywhere near your front door, even in a place that seems well concealed, puts your home at risk. "When a burglar cases a house, the mat is probably the first thing he'll kick over if the door is locked," says Chris McGoey, founder of crimedoctor.com, a security consulting company. Other hiding spots to avoid: inside or under potted plants, above the door, and inside faux "key storage" rocks. "Thieves know when something's fake," McGoey says. Instead, leave a key with your neighbor, and have a locksmith give you your key code—one letter followed by five or six numbers that identify how your key should be cut. That way, when you need a spare key ASAP, you can bring the code to your local locksmith and have one made pronto.

BOTTOM LINE: *super bad!*

WRITTEN BY **JESSICA DODELL-FEDER**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: THINKSTOCK; ANNA YU/GETTY IMAGES; GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

how bad is it...

...to leave the house with **wet hair**?

A: Contrary to what your mom always said, wet hair plus cool weather does not equal a cold. That's because colds are caused by viruses, which can be contracted only from another person, not from low temps and water. "People catch colds most often in the winter, but that has nothing to do with the weather, let alone how damp your hair is," says Rachel Vreeman, M.D., coauthor of *Don't Swallow Your Gum! Myths, Half-Truths, and Outright Lies About Your Body and Health*. One simple reason: We're indoors more and are in closer contact with one another. But while straight-from-the-shower hair won't lead to sniffles, it can make you feel chilled, so if you have the time, give it a quick blast with a blow-dryer, or, at the very least, put on a hat to help keep your body's heat from escaping.

BOTTOM LINE:
not so bad!

...to drink straight out of **the juice carton**?

A: Swigging from a shared container isn't just gross, it's also a guaranteed way to pass germs. "As you drink, you leave germs on the lip of the carton, which can live there for days. You also get backwash in the juice," says Randy Worobo, Ph.D., professor of food microbiology at Cornell University. If a healthy person sips, this may not pose a problem, but if you're sick (or about to be), you can end up transmitting anything from strep to the flu. Also yucky: Saliva contains yeast and other bacteria that make food spoil faster, so those from-the-carton gulps can cut your OJ's shelf life in half.

BOTTOM LINE:
really bad!

...to use the **wrong wattage bulb** in a light fixture?

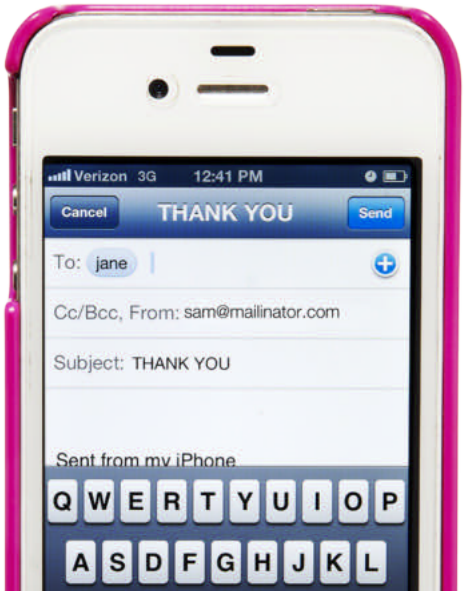
A: Most lights come with a label that suggests maximum wattage for a reason: Use a bulb with a wattage higher than that and the fixture's surface temperature could spike, potentially leading to an overheated socket or wires, which could spark a fire. On the flip side, using a bulb with a wattage lower than what's recommended is safe—the worst that could happen is your room is too dim. A smart option: Try a CFL or an LED instead of an incandescent, says Carmen Pastore, Jr., brand manager for GE Lighting. Both types provide just as much, if not more, light as an incandescent but use fewer watts, so you'll stay safely at or below the suggested maximum.

BOTTOM LINE:
super bad!
(if wattage is higher than recommended)
not bad at all!
(if wattage is lower than recommended)

...to **email a thank-you note** after a dinner party?

A: A thank-you that you typed up between checking your Facebook page and paying bills online may not carry the old-fashioned charm of a handwritten note, but it's totally acceptable if you personalize it with some thoughtful details, says Anna Post, coauthor of *Emily Post's Etiquette, 18th Edition,* and great-great-granddaughter of Emily. For example, mention how much you loved your host's famous chocolate cake or how nice it was chatting with her cousin from Wisconsin. And be sure to send it promptly: With the fast-paced nature of email correspondence, "there's no excuse not to hit send within a day or two," Post says.

BOTTOM LINE:
not bad at all!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D (3); ISTOCKPHOTO

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Can you tell if these cabinets have been

REPLACED, REFACED OR RENEWED?

Unless you've seen the "before" photos, it's hard to tell! That's because all of The Home Depot's kitchen makeover solutions deliver "dream kitchen" results–no matter your budget.

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REPLACING your cabinets is often the choice for those looking to maximize storage and work space or remedy a poor kitchen layout.

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A Home Depot Kitchen Designer can help you carefully plan to get the most out of it.

DID YOU KNOW?

New drawers can give you up to 60% more space!

BENEFITS
Opportunity to maximize storage and change floor plan

TIME REQUIRED
Varies for installing cabinets

PROJECT CHECKLIST
- Select your cabinets
- Select your countertops
- Select your sinks
- Select your faucets

GET STARTED
Visit **homedepot.com/designconnect** to compare options with our budget estimator and schedule a FREE consultation with a Home Depot Kitchen Designer.

KITCHEN DESIGNER TIP:

Crown moldings and ornate architectural details can create the gracious look of a traditional kitchen.

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If you're keeping your existing layout, the choice to **REFACE** can deliver a surprisingly updated look without the major renovation.

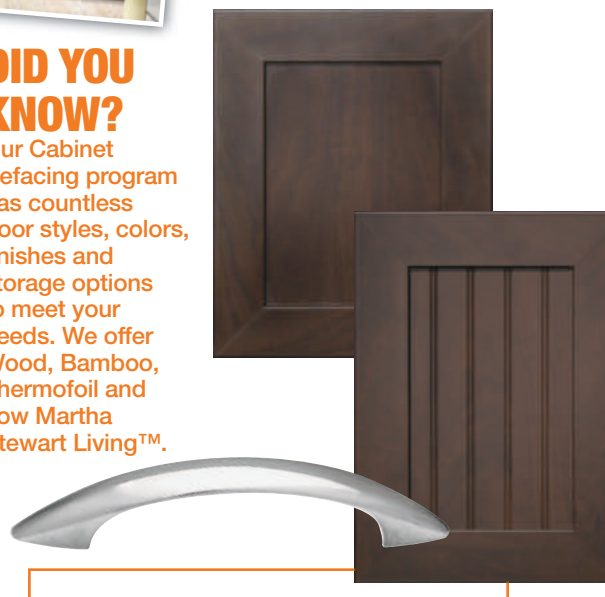
When **REFACING**, you'll be happy to realize it's about more than simply a new door style. It's your chance to rethink hinges and handles. You can even add the rollout shelves and organizers you thought only came with a complete remodel.

KITCHEN DESIGNER TIP:
Consider glass doors in upper cabinets for instant drama.

You even have options for how your doors lie on the cabinet surface. Standard overlays leave the face of the cabinet box visible for a more traditional design, while full overlays completely cover it for a sleeker look.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Cabinet Refacing program has countless door styles, colors, finishes and storage options to meet your needs. We offer Wood, Bamboo, Thermofoil and now Martha Stewart Living™.



BENEFITS
Express your personal style with less disruption and expense than a remodel

TIME REQUIRED
Installation, 3–5 days

GET STARTED
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If your cabinets are old and worn out, you may think REPLACING and REFACING are your only options. But unless you want a completely different layout, **RENEWING** with **N-Hance** Wood Renewal is a great solution. It's the quickest, most affordable way to give your tired kitchen a face-lift, with three services to choose from:

BASIC RENEWAL removes grime buildup; renews worn, cracked finishes; and restores luster.

CABINET COLOR SHIFT conceals sun-faded or yellowing finishes and slightly warms the tone without covering the grain.

CABINET COLOR CHANGE (at right) offers a dramatic effect that can turn a golden oak or whitewash finish to a cherry, walnut or black tone.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can select any sample cabinet color or finish style in the Home Depot Design Center and N-Hance can generally match it.

BENEFITS
A like-new kitchen in days
(at a fraction of the cost to remodel)

TIME REQUIRED*
- 1 day for Basic Renewal
- 2–3 days for Color Shift
- 3–5 days for Color Change

GET STARTED
Visit homedepot.com/designconnect to book a FREE in-home N-Hance consultation today.

*Typical 10' x 10' kitchen

PUTTING YOUR HOME ON THE MARKET?

Or simply entertaining for the holidays? You can have a like-new kitchen in days—not weeks (and Items can even be left in the cabinets and drawers).

every closet needs...

...a lot more than just hangers! Find out what three experts suggest for keeping your clothes, utility, and coat closet under control.

CLOTHES CLOSET

Lisa Adams, owner of LA Closet Design in Los Angeles, creates custom closets for celebrities and pro athletes. Her motto: An organized space equals a calmer life!

a jewelry holder

"If you don't need an entire jewelry box, put this velvet-lined tray on a shelf. It has slots for rings, bracelets, and necklaces."
Jewelry insert tray, $46.50, rockler.com

a sweater saver

"This pumice lifts away pills with a few strokes."
Sweater stone, $18, thelaundress.com

a compact steamer

"It heats up quickly and de-wrinkles everything from delicate blouses to suits."
ProCompact garment steamer, $50, shoprowenta.com

skinny hangers

"These take up way less room than wooden hangers. Plus, the velvet finish prevents garments from sliding off."
Joy Mangano Huggable Hangers, $39 for a set of 48 (in one color), and Huggable Hanger finger clips, $10 for a set of 20, both hsn.com

boot inserts

"I use these to stop tall boots from flopping on the floor."
Boot shapers, $10 for a pair, containerstore.com

a belt keeper

"It works great for ties and scarves, too."
Honey-Can-Do 12-hook tie hangers, $7.50 for a set of 2, amazon.com

REPORTED BY **CATHERINE STRAWN**

CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA/STUDIO D; PORTRAIT: DOUGLAS HILL

UTILITY CLOSET

Scott Roewer, president of Washington D.C.'s Solutions by Scott, is a certified professional organizer and an expert at taming the most clutter-prone zones, such as storage closets.

hanging file bins

"Where should you put manuals, warranties, and old tax returns? In a sturdy file box. I like one with a cover and a place for a label."

Basic file boxes, $22 each, seejanework.com

an over-the-door catchall

"Clear pockets let you see what you've stashed."

The Mini Stash, $15, simplystashed.com

storage for special plates

"Stack china in these cases, which are made from recycled plastic bottles. Different sizes hold dinner, salad, and dessert plates."

Eco-fabric storage cases, $40 for a set of 4, containerstore.com

a footstool and toolbox in one

"This tool case houses the usual screwdrivers and hammers *and* helps you reach high shelves."

Stack-On Step 'N Stor step stool, $45, hayneedle.com

a cleaning tools rack

"This deceptively efficient tool rack has room for up to 13 items, from mops to dustrags."

Grook utility holder, $15, containerstore.com

a place for holiday lights

"Wrapping strands around reels means you won't spend hours untangling knots."

EZ Roll holiday lights reels and bag, $15, target.com

COAT CLOSET

a scarf organizer

"This rig holds a whole lot of scarves—28, to be exact."
Komplement multiuse hanger, $8, IKEA stores

weatherproof baskets

"Made from woven plastic, these bins won't get ruined by snowy mittens and hats."
Cabana bins, $88 for a set of 3, serenaandlily.com

Lydia Marks, of New York City's Marks & Frantz Interior Design and Decoration, created Carrie Bradshaw's enviable walk-in closets for the *Sex and the City* movies. In real life, she's a pro at teaching clients how to maximize small spaces.

sturdy wooden hangers

"Solid cedar hangers last a lifetime and keep moths away."
Cedar hanger, $11, filson.com

a welcome mat

"Put wet boots and shoes on this vinyl mat to keep your closet floor clean."
Sandy Chilewich shag doormat, $45, momastore.org

wall hooks

"A modern aluminum hook is the perfect place to hang the dog's leash."
City wall hook, $40, schoolhouseelectric.com

a coat catcher

"Slip this bright swinging hook set over a door for your everyday jackets."
Multiplayer door hook, $20, landofnod.com

CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA/STUDIO D; ROEWER; JASON HORNICK PHOTOGRAPHY; MARKS; JAMIE STARKMAN

talk to a toolman

Should you hire a pro or tackle that home repair job yourself? *Elbow Room*'s **Chip Wade** weighs in on five common questions.

Q: Can I replace the caulk around my bathtub? It always looks dirty.

CHIP SAYS: GIVE IT A GO. Dig out the old caulk with a plastic caulk removal tool (about $4, at hardware stores). I avoid using anything metal, such as a screwdriver, because it can scratch the enamel. After you scrape away the dirty caulk, clean the edges of the tub to remove any mildew or dust. Make sure the tub is dry, then squeeze a line of silicone tub-and-tile caulk around the edges, and smooth it out with a plastic caulk applicator tool (about $9, at hardware stores) to create a watertight seal. Let dry following package instructions before using the bathtub again.

> "Never reach into a garbage disposal with your hands—those blades can cut you, even if the power is off."

Q: I hear a loud thump every time the heat goes on and off in my house. How can I stop the noise?

CHIP SAYS: HIRE A PRO. There are so many potential causes for the racket, it's tough for the average homeowner to figure out what's going on. Instead, leave it to an HVAC technician. He'll turn your heat on and off to make sure the system is working properly, then examine your furnace and the ducts to identify the origin of the noise and eliminate it.

Q: How can I keep little pools of water from forming inside my fridge?

CHIP SAYS: GIVE IT A GO. First make sure you haven't accidentally turned your refrigerator's temperature control above 40 degrees. Then use a piece of wire to unclog the small hole that leads to the drain pan—the hole is located inside your fridge, in the back, near the bottom. Finally, test your fridge door's seal: Close a piece of paper in the door with half of it sticking out. If you can easily pull the paper free, your gasket is loose, which means warm air is getting inside. You'll need to replace the gasket, an easy DIY task. Still seeing puddles? Time to bite the bullet and get help from an expert.

Q: The door to my bedroom drags on the carpet. What's the fix?

CHIP SAYS: HIRE A PRO. Check that the hinges are tightly screwed into the door. If they are and the door still drags, it needs to be trimmed. Unless you're experienced with power tools, hire a carpenter. He'll remove the door, use a power saw to cut it so there's about a ¾-inch gap between the door's bottom and the floor, and sand it. Then paint or stain the new cut and rehang the door.

Q: My garbage disposal is jammed. Help!

CHIP SAYS: GIVE IT A GO. There's probably food wedged under the blade. Cut the disposal's power, get under the sink, and insert an Allen wrench into the Allen bolt—it has a hexagon-shape socket in its head and is attached to the disposal's blade. Swivel the wrench until the blade moves freely and you can pull the debris from the sink with tongs or pliers—never your hands! Turn the power back on, then run cold water with the disposal on to make sure it's clear.

CHIP'S PICK

SUPER SNOW SHOVEL

"Because the blade is aluminum, it's light and it won't rust. And the angled handle makes lifting heavy snow easier—it's a real back saver."

Arctic Blast aluminum shovel, $27, amestruetemper.com

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HomeDepot.com

dropping 5 pounds?

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teakwood top
Thinner solid teak digital scale, $62, conair.com

super slim
Kalorik electronic scale, $50, qvc.com

classic dial
Seca Colorata 760 scale, $130, brookstone.com

nonslip mat
Taylor mechanical scale, $20, lowes.com

striped glass
Weight Watchers glass scale, $25, target.com

woven metallic
Gedy by Nameek's Marrakech scale, $98, wayfair.com

GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

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21 unanswered calls 7 cups of jasmine tea

12 pillows for never-ending dreams

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grocery store flower challenge

We sent 10 HGTV stars to the supermarket to pick their favorite blooms and arrange them in a creative container. Everything came up roses—and tulips, lilies, and more!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **ALISON GOOTEE** REPORTED BY **BETSY GOLDBERG** STYLING BY **RACHAEL WEINER**

"I like a combo of **mini carnations** and **spray roses** in bright colors like red, yellow, and orange. Mix lots of them together in a metal champagne bucket."

—Cortney Novogratz,
Home By Novogratz

"Try **carrot tops**! Clip a bundle from two bunches of carrots, add **hydrangeas**, and place them loosely in an apothecary jar."

—Casey Noble,
Design on a Dime

"Soak empty Orangina bottles in warm water, then peel off the labels and put a **gerbera daisy** in each bottle. I like to line them up down a table."

—Monica Pedersen,
HGTV Dream Home

"These three flowers always look sophisticated: white **tulips**, white **roses** (the more open, the better), and **Casablanca lilies**. Arrange 8 to 10 of each in a colored enamel pitcher or vase. To prevent the flowers from looking too wedding-y, keep the blooms kind of messy and not symmetrical."

—Emily Henderson, ***Secrets From a Stylist***

"Fill a porcelain crock with a full bundle of orange **roses** and purple **statice** cut so the blooms are just above the rim. Add a few orange **calla lilies** snipped a little taller than the other flowers."

—Meg Caswell,
Meg's Great Rooms

"Don't discriminate against **carnations**! Take a bunch of white ones, remove the leaves, then cut the stems down to a few inches. Add **fresh rosemary** and cluster them tightly in small jars set inside vintage tea tins."

—Danielle Colding, *Shop This Room*

"My no-fail bouquet: red **roses** with a border of white roses, in a mercury glass vase. You could even add a few more white ones in the middle, slightly raised."

—David Bromstad, *HGTV Design Star*

"Put a dozen **alstroemeria** with the leaves stripped off in a tall white lacquer container. Stick with one color, then add stems of **lemon leaf**, which is often used as filler in premade bouquets."

—Taniya Nayak, *House Hunters on Vacation*

"I love the beautiful simplicity of yellow **roses** and purple **waxflower** in a mason jar, filled about three fourths with water. It makes a gorgeous country-style arrangement. Grit and grace!"

—Amie Sikes, *Junk Gypsies*

"Spider mums feel exotic. Fill a low cube vase with river rocks, then stick a single bloom cut very short in the middle."

—Vern Yip, *HGTV Design Star*

NOBLE: ANDREW STILES; PEDERSEN: MICHAEL DAR; CASWELL_SIKES: MATT HARBICHT/GETTY IMAGES FOR HGTV; COLDING: KEVIN LYNCH/HGTV; NAYAK: KAREN DETRICK; YIP: PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D

51 shades of

Gray has gotten lots of buzz at the bookstore—why not the paint store, too? Here's our roundup of the best-looking colors.

Our choice for trim both indoors and out.

3
Subtle Touch
by Behr

4
Porpoise
by Dunn-Edwards

5
Harbor Mist
by Olympic

6
Catnap
by True Value

7
Montauk Driftwood
by Ralph Lauren Paint

13
Seraph
by C2 Paint

So pretty in a bath!

14
Stunning Maiden
by True Value

15
Sharkey Gray
by Martha Stewart Living Paint

16
Revere Pewter
by Benjamin Moore

22
Functional Gray
by Sherwin-Williams

23
Lamp Room Gray
by Farrow & Ball

24
Escarpment
by Benjamin Moore

25
Fireplace
by Christopher Peacock

Try it in high gloss when painting a piece of furniture.

26
Metropolis
by Valspar

32
Anonymous
by Behr

33
Suit of Armor
by Mythic Paint

34
Garden Path
by Fine Paints of Europe

35
Deep Silver
by Benjamin Moore

36
Distant Thunder
by Pittsburgh Paints

42
Whale Gray
by Benjamin Moore

43
High-Speed Steel
by Valspar

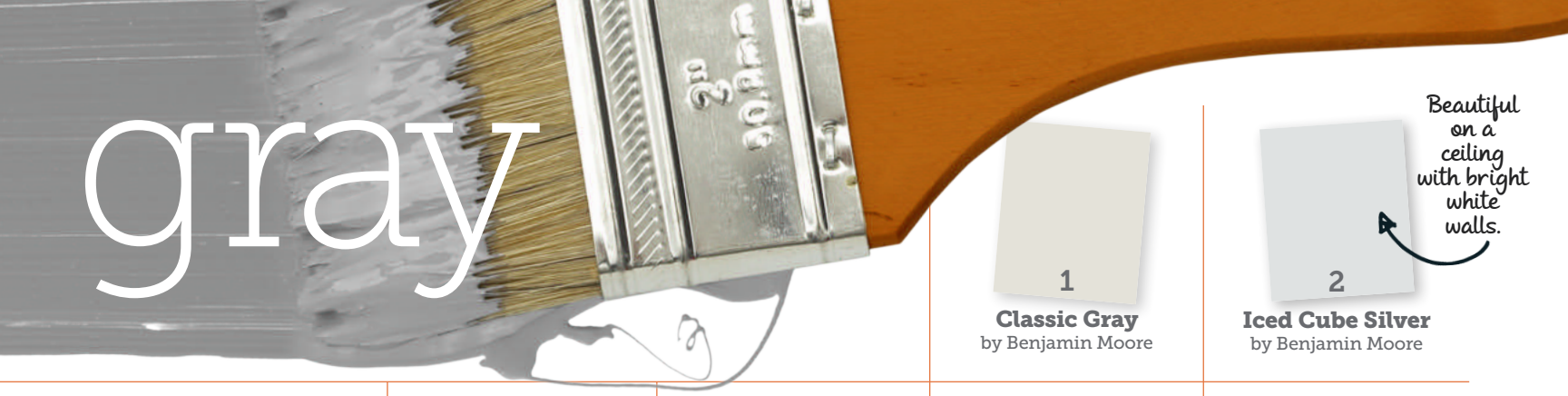
44
Thorwood
by Mythic Paint

Up the drama in your dining room.

45
Manor House
by Sherwin-Williams

46
Colonial Shades
by Clark+Kensington

gray



1
Classic Gray
by Benjamin Moore

2
Iced Cube Silver
by Benjamin Moore

Beautiful on a ceiling with bright white walls.

8
Winter Sky
by Fine Paints of Europe

9
Pebble Beach
by Benjamin Moore

10
Cindersmoke
by Martin-Senour Paints

11
Light French Gray
by Sherwin-Williams

12
Smooth Stone
by Glidden

A designer favorite because it works in any room.

17
Elephant's Breath
by Farrow & Ball

18
Coastal Pleasure
by Clark+Kensington

19
Mourning Dove
by Martha Stewart Living Paint

20
Intellectual Gray
by Sherwin-Williams

21
Palisade
by Sherwin-Williams

27
Georgian Silver
by Pittsburgh Paints

28
Silver Charm
by Olympic

29
Adagio
by Benjamin Moore

30
Nickel
by Benjamin Moore

31
Neutral Grey
by Ralph Lauren Paint

37
Titanium
by C2 Paint

38
Baby Hippo
by Martin-Senour Paints

39
Durability
by Pratt & Lambert

40
Dior Gray
by Benjamin Moore

41
Bleecker
by Ralph Lauren Paint

47
Down Pipe
by Farrow & Ball

Looks fantastic on kitchen cabinets with brass hardware.

48
Blue Steel
by Dunn-Edwards

49
Blue-Grey Slate
by Glidden

50
Sealskin
by HGTV HOME by Sherwin-Williams

51
Graphite
by Pratt & Lambert

Perfect for a front door and shutters.

vern knows mirrors

HGTV Design Star judge **Vern Yip** shares 10 tips for finding and hanging the perfect piece.

Chain 21"-diameter metal mirror, $60, target.com

YIP: PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D

My home is filled with mirrors of all shapes and sizes. They're one of my favorite accessories because they can make a room look bigger and brighter. Put one opposite a window and it bounces the light around. Or lean one against a wall in a dining area and it will reflect the fixture above the table, doubling the amount of light. That's what I did with a 10-foot-long, black-framed mirror in my breakfast room. Great trick! Here's how to find the best size, shape, and hanging spot for a mirror in your space.

1. The right height for hanging a mirror so people can see themselves is 60 inches from the floor to the center of the mirror. That's a good rule of thumb for hanging artwork, too.

2. Put a mirror near the door you use most, whether that's in the entryway or beside your "real front door," like the one to the garage. It makes it easier to get one last look at yourself before you walk out.

3. A wood-framed mirror doesn't have to match the other wood pieces in the room, but keep it in the general color family. Say your other furniture is oak or pine: Any warm, golden wood frame is fine, but a dark cherry frame would be better paired with reddish mahogany pieces. Same goes for metal frames: Stick with the main metal in the room.

4. For a mirror that can go anywhere, try one that's bordered by a mirrored frame. But never skip the frame entirely. Mounting a frameless mirror to a wall makes a room look dated and unfinished.

Hang it horizontally above a sofa.

Levanger 37⅜" x 22⅞" brass and fiberboard mirror, $85, IKEA stores

Marrakesh Dreams 24"-diameter wood mirror, $139, homedecorators.com

GlucksteinHome Suede 43" x 32" wood mirror, $239, broyhillfurniture.com for stores

Radiant 36"-diameter iron and wood mirror, $199, pier1.com

Queen Anne 38" x 26" lacquered wood mirror in orange, $595, jonathanadler.com

Horn 25"-diameter polished horn mirror, $395, jaysonhome.com

Acanthus leaf 46" x 33¾" resin mirror, $499, wisteria.com

Try it in a front hall.

Light Quatrefoil 39"-diameter wood mirror, $539, ethanallen.com

5. Keep the features on the glass itself subtle, especially if the frame is intricate. I love beveled glass—it's clean and never looks out of place—but etched and faux-antiqued glass can be detail overload.

6. The width of the mirror should be smaller than the piece of furniture below it. If the mirror is roughly two thirds the size of the piece, it'll work just about every time. So if you have a nine-foot console or sofa, the mirror above it should be about six feet across. You can go a little wider, but anything narrower than that will feel lost.

7. If you have a small mirror that looks lonely by itself, try this trick: Flank it on either side with framed art or wall sconces. Lay out the composition on the floor before you hang it, and treat the grouping like one unit, again making sure the overall length is two thirds the length of the furniture beneath it.

8. Choose a mirror style that will balance out what's around it. For example: If you have an ornate buffet, a clean-lined mirror can be a stunner. Alternately, one with a carved frame is great above a contemporary console.

9. If you can't figure out what to put above your sofa, hang a full-length mirror horizontally on the wall. Most will fit beautifully over a seven-foot couch, and some even come with the hardware you'll need to hang the mirror sideways.

10. Consider a custom mirror. Most frame shops can make them quickly, and it may not cost more than a ready-made one. It's a great option if you're searching for an unusual size, like what I needed for my back entryway. I paid the same amount I would have for a ready-made mirror that wasn't the right size.

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the high/low list

With **Sabrina Soto**, host of *The High Low Project*, we pulled together some dynamic duos with drastically different price tags.

$116

This goblet is handmade by artists in Portugal.

Colette footed goblet (sold individually; price is for 4), juliska.com

$56

Created using vintage glass molds from the early 20th century.

Set of 4 Parisian glasses, rosannainc.com

$144

A top-notch feather insert makes this cotton pillow extra plush.

Hot House Floral Summer 26" x 26" pillow, pineconehill.com

$69

Perk up a sofa with this polyester version, which comes in four sizes.

Khristian A Howell Kaui Blooms 26" x 26" pillow, denydesigns.com

$1,049

Looks A-list glam thanks to a hand-painted gold finish.

Sadie 23"H side table, neimanmarcus.com

$299

Distressed mirrors give this little table that perfect antique feel.

Abeille 23½"H side table, ballarddesigns.com

PRODUCED BY **KATE DOHERTY**

$230

Multiple layers of lacquer add both gloss and cost.

Pacific Connections storage boxes (sold individually; price is for 2), 8"W x 6"D x 3½"H, plantationdesign.com

$19

Similar robin's-egg blue, but only the lids are lacquered; the boxes are painted wood.

Set of 2 storage boxes, 6"W x 4"D x 2½"H, wisteria.com

$7,020

It takes about four months to make this showstopper.

Paul Smith Swirl 6' x 9' wool rug, therugcompany.com

$399

Made from Indian and New Zealand wool, this would be so cute in a kid's room.

Tectonic 5' x 8' rug, landofnod.com

$799

Super-intricate woodwork, plus the seat is soft leather.

Ankara chair, crateandbarrel.com

$236

Easy-to-clean microfiber upholstery makes this pick family-friendly.

Wooden lounge chair with fabric seat, brookstone.com

$900

That's a fancy Italian solid marble top on a stainless steel frame.

Rubik 36"-diameter coffee table, dwr.com

$329

Gray-veined marble mimics pricey Carrara at a fraction of the price.

Smart round marble top 33"-diameter coffee table, cb2.com

BOXES: ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D.; CB2 TABLE: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

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style your breakfast table for less

$2,482

A jute pendant, a solid wood table, and a stoneware French press add up to a happy morning spot.

1 Cokie dining chairs in ale, $490 each, mainecottage.com
2 Pillivuyt Barrel porcelain pitcher, $99, williams-sonoma.com. We filled ours with lilies. **3** Spode Baking Days mug, $64 for a set of 4, kohls.com **4** French press, $60, lecreuset.com
5 Jamie Young Udaipur 18"-diameter chandelier, $380, lampsplus.com
6 Potter 42"-diameter solid maple table, $899, ethanallen.com

$826

Save big on this setup, which includes a bamboo pendant, a hickory-finish table, and a glass coffeemaker.

1 Holsag Bulldog side chairs in canary, $151 each, wayfair.com
2 Sockerärt steel and enamel vase, $15, IKEA stores. We filled ours with tulips. **3** Kitchen Blue mug, $30 for a set of 4 mixed patterns, bedbathandbeyond.com
4 Brazil French press, $20, bodum.com **5** Boja 17"-diameter pendant, $60, IKEA stores
6 Sidney 42"-diameter hardwood table, $399, ballarddesigns.com

WILLIAMS-SONOMA PITCHER, LE CREUSET FRENCH PRESS, WAYFAIR CHAIRS, IKEA PITCHER, BED BATH & BEYOND MUG; GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

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The living room from *This Is 40*

steal this movie set

Get the look of the light, airy living room from the new comedy *This Is 40*.

From left: Maude and Iris Apatow on set with Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann

The Los Angeles couple in the film *This Is 40* have a supercharged life. "They're dealing with drama at work, constantly checking their phones, and fighting traffic all day," says set decorator Leslie Pope. "They want their home to be a comfortable place where they can relax and hang out with their kids." So Pope created a laid-back living room using cream sofas and warm wood pieces, then added pillows, vases, and other accessories to weave in pops of California colors aqua, coral, and yellow. The space has a traditional style but, like a good plot, there are some expected twists: a gold sunburst mirror, mercury glass candlesticks, and a brass pig figurine.

patterny pillows

JoJo Designs Blue Mod Dots 16" x 16" pillow, $23, bedding.com

Medallion Handprint Lake 16" x 16" pillow, $40, pillowdecor.com

Mint green plaid 20" x 20" pillow, $60, zazzle.com

SUZANNE HANOVER/UNIVERSAL PICTURES; JOJO DESIGNS PILLOW; HEATHER DUTTON PILLOW; COAL HOD; CANDLESTICK: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

nickel sconce
Capital Lighting Fixture Company Midtown sconce, $120, wayfair.com

colorful throw
Spice throw, $50, pier1.com

coffee table
Bungalow 5 Jacqui coffee table, $715, laylagrayce.com

sunburst mirror
Sunflower 34½"-diameter mirror, $319, homedecorators.com

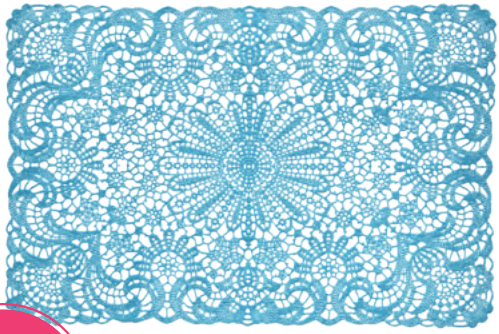
golden pig
Gold-painted pig bookends, $30, cb2.com

log holder
Antique copper 14"-tall coal hod, $110, lampsplus.com

linen sofa
Belgian Roll Arm sofa in sand, $3,525, restorationhardware.com

PRODUCED BY **KATE DOHERTY**

bang for your buck



WHAT A STEAL!

$2
vinyl place mat
Lace design place mat, pearlriver.com

$2.50
fun erasers
Dice erasers, set of 6, crateandbarrel.com

$8
water glass
Dissolved cobalt glass, shopterrain.com

$25
appetizer plates
Medallion ironstone plates, set of 4, pier1.com

$25
super bowl
Touchdown chip & dip, bwtc.com

$32
cute shakers
Efeet Collection salt & pepper shaker set, dylankendall.com

$48
firewood holder
Panacea steel log hoop, casa.com

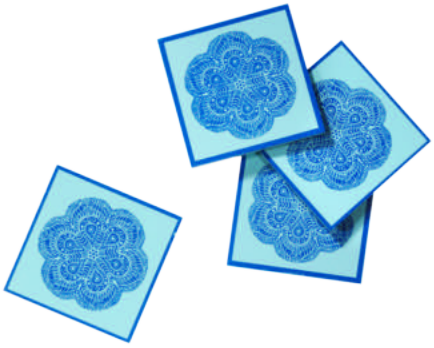
$49
zigzag pillow
Khristian A Howell Nolita Chevrons 20" x 20" pillow, denydesigns.com

$79
pretty pouf
Faux-leather seat, landofnod.com

Happy finds for every room in your house,
starting at less than you'd pay for a cup of coffee.

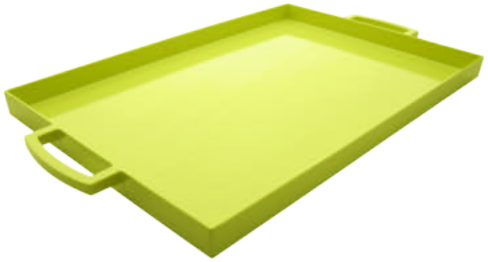
$8.50
heart dog toy
Good Karma rope toy,
jaxandbones.com

$9
shiny catchall
Luster 6" amber bowl,
jamaligarden.com



$10
wooden coasters
Colorful coasters, set of 4,
wisteria.com

$18
key keeper
XL magnet key holder,
kikkerland.com



$20
melamine tray
Zak Designs large lime
green tray, poppin.com

$20
striped blanket
Malin acrylic throw,
IKEA stores

$149
side table
Lyrical Harp 24"H wood table,
grandinroad.com

$180
slipper chair
Quincy chair,
worldmarket.com

$200
leafy rug
Wool-blend 5' x 8' area rug,
HomeGoods stores

WHAT A DEAL!

GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

PRODUCED BY **KATE DOHERTY**

you asked for it:

art under $100

It's one of our top reader requests: affordable art to wake up the walls! Here, some of our favorite finds and online shopping sources.

1 *Tots* by Lulie Wallace (acrylic on birchwood, 6" x 6"), $75 each, **lulie wallace.com** **2** *Central Park, Model Boat Regatta, 1962* (art print of photo, 11" x 14"), $60, **20x200.com** **3** *Color Your Life* by Bianca Green (art print, 12" x 19"), $21, **society6.com** **4** *Sea of Happiness* by Olivia Joy StClaire (art print of photo illustration, 13" x 19"), $26, **society6.com** **5** *Blue Moth on Yellow* by Bee Things (limited edition screen print, 18" x 24"), $40, **beethings.etsy.com**

PHOTOGRAPH BY AARON DYER; PRODUCED BY JENNIFER BERNO

6

6 *Snow Angel* by Paula Varona (art print, 14" x 14"), $40, **saatchionline.com** **7** *Spine With Greens and Orange* by Malissa Ryder (original watercolor on paper, 8¼" x 9¼"), $80, **malissasplace.etsy.com** **8** *Dog Walking Service* by R. Nichols (art print, 11" x 14"), $35, **r-nichols.com** **9** *Lakeville Road Vines* by Kay Carlson (art print, 12 13/16" x 16"), $91, **artthatfits.com** **10** *Highway Wildflowers* by Kelli Hall (art print, 16" x 20"), $95, **minted.com** **11** *Parasols* by Paul Louis Villani (photo print, 12" x 12"), $17.50, **redbubble.com**

7

8

11

9

10

copy our cover!

It's staring you in the face: that had-it-forever bookcase begging for

We painted the inside of our shelves Bright Yellow by Benjamin Moore.

1 Raise up trinkets on a tower of books. Then line pretty hardbacks upright in a row next to it, with a visible gap showing between the groups of books.

2 ID the contents in your storage boxes with paper labels. Use ivory paper, or opt for colorful craft paper when you want to liven up the look.

3 Group vases that are in the same color family, like these blue vessels, to make a mini collection.

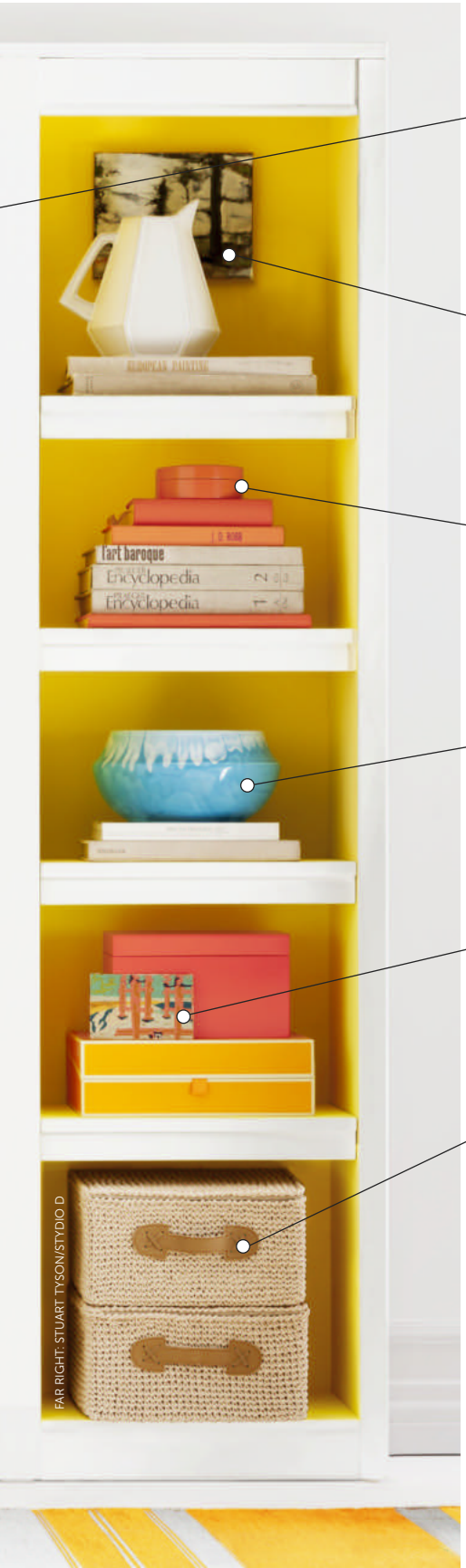
4 Stash files in stylish binders—stick to one color so they don't look like a mishmash of office supplies.

WIN!

Give your bookshelves some style! One lucky reader will win a $1,000 gift card to Crate and Barrel to shop for shelves and accessories. For details on how to enter for a chance to win, see page 117.

10 simple **style tricks**

a new look. Get a shelf display you'll be proud of using a lot of stuff you already have.



FAR RIGHT: STUART TYSON/STYDIO D

5 Lean a piece of art on a shelf, then add a cute potted fern and a few similar-hued vases. Vary the heights of the containers to make your display more interesting.

6 Hang a little painting right on the back of the shelf. Place white accessories in front of it, but not too many, so the art isn't blocked.

7 Top off a stack of books with a container in a matching color. A lacquer box is the perfect spot to keep spare house keys.

8 Raid your kitchen cabinets for shapely things to display, such as pitchers or a glazed ceramic bowl.

9 Anything can be art! Lean a small postcard or photo against a stack of boxes.

10 Store supplies like cords, DVDs, and batteries in lidded boxes. A wide handle makes it easy to pull the box off the shelf.

BOOKSHELVES Payton 32" x 76" bookcase, $349, and 20" x 76" bookcase, $249, both crateandbarrel.com **AREA RUG** Puhalo Stripe 5' x 8' wool rug in leo sun, $559, capelrugs.com for stores **STOOL** X-bench in supernova teal, $695, jonathanadler.com

3 more cute stools (for styling or for sitting!)

woven
Samar ottoman, $119, crateandbarrel.com

leather
Drum ottoman, $803, leeindustries.com for stores

upholstered
Masquerade ottoman in emmerling fountain, $400, crlaine.com for stores

PHOTOGRAPH BY **BURCU AVSAR**

My DRY EYES

Chronic Dry Eye (CDE) is a disease with potential consequences for your eyes

The symptoms of CDE disease—dryness, stinging, itching, burning, a gritty or sandy sensation, sensitivity to light, excessive tearing, blurry vision, or difficulty seeing at night—can limit your ability to perform daily activities that involve your eyes.

And over time, if not managed properly, CDE may worsen and have potential consequences for your eyes—damage to the eye surface, increased risk of eye infection, and effects on your vision.

The good news is that there are management options available for CDE. If you think you have CDE disease, it's important to make an appointment to talk with your eye doctor.

"I used to read Matthew his favorite story after he finished his homework. My dry eyes make it harder for us to share those special moments."

Answer 6 CDE Questions

@ MyDryEyes.com

and make an appointment with your eye doctor.

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ALLERGAN

real estate spy

what do these houses have in **common?**

They're all for sale, but there's something else they share that might surprise you. Can you guess what it is?

- **[A] They're all on the same block**
- **[B] They're all 2,000 square feet**
- **[C] They were all built in the past five years**
- **[D] They're all $250,000**

REPORTED BY **JESSICA DODELL-FEDER**

PENCIL: THINKSTOCK

[B] They're all 2,000

$235,000
MADISON, WI
3 BR, 2 BA + two ½ BA, built in 2005

- ✓ Updated kitchen counters, wood laminate floors, and jetted shower
- ✓ Less than 10 miles from the University of Wisconsin campus

AGENT: CHAD SCOTT, FIRST WEBER GROUP REALTORS

$299,900
ATLANTA, GA
4 BR, 2 BA, built in 1948

- ✓ Recently renovated with new hardwood floors
- ✓ Master suite with whirlpool tub and walk-in closets

AGENT: CANDACE FUQUA, AVENUE REALTY

$1,099,000
PROVINCETOWN, MA
3 BR, 3 BA, built in 2011

- ✓ Beach house on Cape Cod; a five-minute drive from the water
- ✓ Master bedroom with fireplace
- ✓ Professionally landscaped yard

AGENT: MONA ANDERSON, WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE

$435,000
SEATTLE, WA
4 BR, 2 BA, built in 1926

- ✓ Original hardwood floors and moldings
- ✓ Newly updated bathrooms
- ✓ In Greenwood neighborhood, known for its restaurants, coffee shops, and boutiques

AGENT: TODD SHIVELY, COLDWELL BANKER BAIN

DID YOU KNOW?
A new 2,000-square-foot home costs an average of $166,760.

square feet!

$148,000
FORISTELL, MO

3 BR, 2½ BA, built in 1994

- ✓ Stone floor-to-ceiling fireplace
- ✓ Sunroom that opens to a deck
- ✓ Gated golf course community an hour west of St. Louis

AGENTS: LENORE JONES AND JUANITA STEINER, COLDWELL BANKER GUNDAKER

DID YOU KNOW?
The average new house in the United States is 2,480 square feet.

$505,000
PARK CITY, UT

2 BR, 2½ BA, built in 1999

- ✓ Set in a 34-acre park community 15 minutes from downtown
- ✓ Second-story loft
- ✓ Mountain and creek views

AGENT: KATHY PENROSE, PRUDENTIAL UTAH REAL ESTATE

$719,000
WINNETKA, IL

3 BR, 3 BA, built in 1921

- ✓ Finished basement with full bath
- ✓ Sunroom that overlooks the yard
- ✓ In one of the wealthiest suburbs in the country, about 20 miles from Chicago

AGENT: NEHRU ARUNASALAM, EQUITY MARKET REALTY

$575,000
ALEXANDRIA, VA

4 BR, 2 BA + two ½ BA, built in 1962

- ✓ Refinished white oak floors
- ✓ Park and river views from the master bedroom
- ✓ Seven-minute drive from historic district

AGENT: ANDY KRUMHOLZ, KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY RESTON/HERNDON

2,000-SQUARE-FOOT MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE. STATISTICS (2): ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

✳ TOUR THOUSANDS MORE HOMES ON HGTV'S FRONTDOOR.COM.

COPY THE curb appeal!

During a spin through the Buckhead neighborhood in Atlanta, GA, these charming houses made us put on the brakes!

HOMEOWNERS:
Tim and Lindsey Champney
BUILT IN: 1935
BOUGHT IN: 2008
"We fell in love with the Cape Cod style and the paint colors. We added the retaining wall—the granite matches the house's original basement level walls."

IDEAS TO STEAL

flower beds

The main bed, bordered by a granite retaining wall, is filled with purple 'Wave' petunias (1). Fountain grass (2), named for its cascading leaves, grows tall in the yard and near the house's large front window.

1

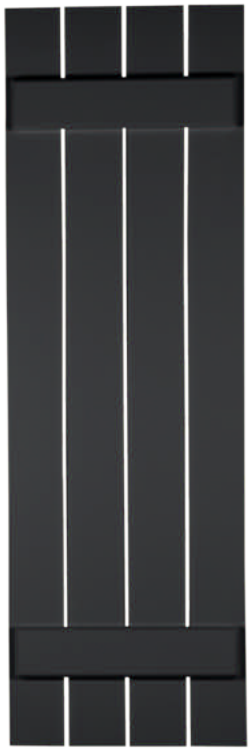
2

paint colors

The Champneys used custom colors. To get the look, try:
SIDING: Rubidoux by Pratt & Lambert
TRIM: Extra White by Sherwin-Williams
SHUTTERS AND DOOR: Tricorn Black by Sherwin-Williams

retaining wall

If you have a sloping yard, you don't have to level it to landscape. Consider a retaining wall, made of stone, brick, or concrete, to shore up the layers and define flower beds. Granite is a popular, pretty choice.



shutters

Historically used on barns and farmhouses, board and batten shutters have a more laid-back feel than louvered versions.

Board & Batten shutter, from $300, timberlane.com for buying info

Minka-Lavery Glen Allen outdoor wall lantern, $391, bellacor.com

lantern-style lights

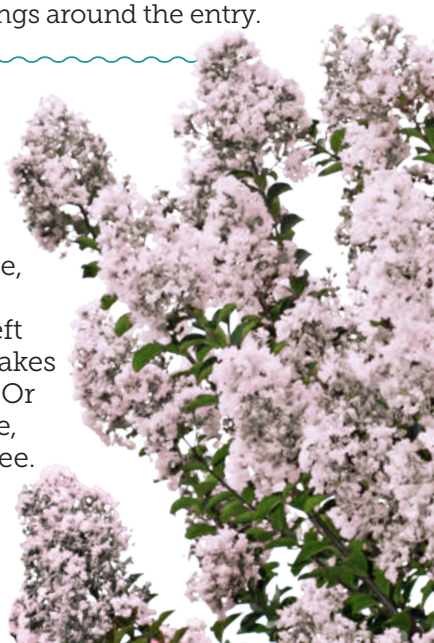
Double up on classic style with a pair of lantern fixtures flanking the door. The symmetry looks great with the duos of urns, pilasters, and railings around the entry.

decorative molding

The white wooden pieces under the gable trim above the front door are purely for looks. Try this idea by mounting newel post ball caps, typically used on stair railings.

crape myrtle

It's a popular tree for the front yard because it's beautiful and low-maintenance, and it blooms all summer long. Left untrimmed, it makes a colorful shrub. Or prune it, like here, into a graceful tree.



PETUNIAS: DANITA DELIMONT/ALAMY; FOUNTAIN GRASS: ISTOCKPHOTO; CRAPE MYRTLE: MARTIN HUGHES-JONES/ALAMY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **SARAH DORIO** PRODUCED BY **JENNIFER BERNO** AND **STEELE THOMAS MARCOUX**

HOMEOWNER:
Kathlee Kohl
BUILT IN: 1930
BOUGHT IN: 2010
"I painted the front door blue to brighten up the entrance. And I like the rockers because they make the house feel so welcoming."

IDEAS TO STEAL

window boxes

A no-fail window box combo: bright impatiens (1) and foxtail ferns (2). Put plants in a plastic liner that fits inside the copper box and lifts out for easy care.

Smith & Hawken Eden Park 4' copper window box, $199, target.com

1

2

gutters and downspouts

These weathered copper gutters blend in with the dark trim—a good camouflaging trick when you don't want them to stand out.

rocking chairs

A polyurethane finish protects wooden rockers from the rain, heat, and sun. Pillows with pretty all-weather fabric cases soften the seats.

Shine Company seaside outdoor porch rocking chair, $135, atgstores.com; Sunbrella outdoor fabric in sky blue, $37 per yard, calicocorners.com

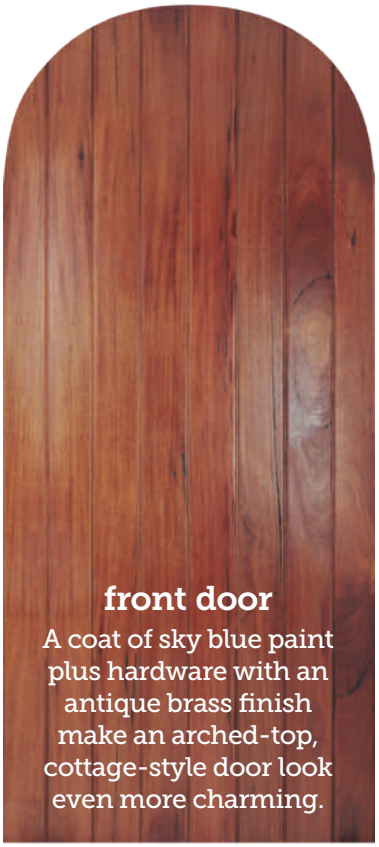
address plaque

Choose one that picks up a feature, like an arch, found elsewhere on your house.

Oakview address plaque, $109, frontgate.com

paint colors

STUCCO: Acadia White by Benjamin Moore
TRIM: Black by Benjamin Moore
FRONT DOOR: Nantucket Fog by Benjamin Moore



front door

A coat of sky blue paint plus hardware with an antique brass finish make an arched-top, cottage-style door look even more charming.

MAI Fine Hardwood door A55RT in Andean walnut, $2,198, hansencraftcustomwoodwork.com

planters by the door

They're simple and pretty: square zinc containers filled with round boxwoods and trailing variegated ivy.

blue hydrangeas

Cheery blue hydrangeas line the front of the house. They do well in partial shade, sheltered from the wind.

PILLOW: ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D; IMPATIENS: JACQUI DRACUP/AGE FOTOSTOCK; FERN: CUBOIMAGES SRL/ALAMY; HYDRANGEA: JASON SMALLEY/AGE FOTOSTOCK

HOMEOWNERS:
Jim and Kimberly Steele
BUILT IN: 1943
BOUGHT IN: 2012

"The neighborhood has such an eclectic feel. No two houses are the same. We love our small front yard with the picket fence—it complements our cottage."

IDEAS TO STEAL

copper awnings

You can have awnings custom-sized, which makes them easy to add to existing windows or doors. This version matches the bay window roof.

Sweep style awning with batten seams, from $1,200, outdoorcopperdesign.com for buying info

barrel planter

Potted in a half barrel along with sweet potato vine (1), this gardenia (2), which blooms from midspring into summer, perfumes the entry. It's an evergreen, so it looks pretty even when it's not flowering.

Wine barrel Country Manor by Dynamic Design, $55, casa.com

1

2

lush-looking yard

The Steeles' yard has four types of shrubs: Lantana grows behind the fence. By the door, a dwarf-variety Japanese maple is planted behind vinca major (the one with white flowers). English laurel fills the bed against the house.

flag

Don't wait for July 4th! The Stars and Stripes extends a friendly Americana greeting all year long.

Signature American flag, $50, brookstone.com

bench

Topped with outdoor cushions in happy hues like lime green and reddish orange, this eucalyptus wood bench can stand up to all kinds of weather.

Eucalyptus backless bench, $120, improvementscatalog.com; Sunbrella outdoor fabrics in macaw and melon, $37 per yard, calicocorners.com

picket fence

Pre-built picket fences are a fast way to boost yard charm—buy a wood one and paint it any color. A gothic model like the Steeles' or a French gothic version (below) will never go out of style.

Pressure-treated French gothic spaced 3½' x 8' fence panel, $24, homedepot.com

paint colors

The Steeles used custom colors. To get the look, try:
SIDING: Bella Blue by Benjamin Moore
TRIM AND FENCE: Simply White by Benjamin Moore

PLANTER: J.MUCKLE/STUDIO D; PILLOWS: ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D; GARDENIA: MARTIN HUGHES-JONES/GAP PHOTOS; SWEET POTATO VINE: GILLES DELACROIX/IMAGE FOTOSTOCK

HOMEOWNER:
Bob Dimm
BUILT IN: 1922
BOUGHT IN: 1986
"The front porch is great for entertaining. And I'm partial to the all-green landscaping—it's calm and simple."

29 IDEAS TO STEAL

brick path

A spiffy pattern elevates a brick walkway to a path with panache. A professional installer will know how to lay pavers in lots of patterns, from basket weave to herringbone (seen here).

house numbers

Consider hanging address numbers on a front porch stair riser. These shiny brass versions come with their own mounting hardware and work on any style home. Classic!

Standard 4" house numbers in polished brass, $8.50 each, restorationhardware.com

all-green yard

Dwarf yaupon holly shrubs, which maintain their mounded shape with little pruning; drought-tolerant monkey grass for borders; and fescue grass for the lawn create a manicured look with minimal upkeep.

paint colors

SIDING AND TRIM: Fluffy Towel by Perma-White Exterior by Zinsser
SHUTTERS AND PORCH FLOOR: Rookwood Dark Green by Sherwin-Williams

shutters and french doors

There's just something about full-length shutters flanking tall French doors that says "welcome home." Match the dimensions of each shutter to the dimensions of each door.

wicker chairs

Comfy all-weather wicker furniture makes any porch the perfect spot for impromptu get-togethers with neighbors.

Nantucket lounge chair, $1,005, lloydflanders.com for buying info

plants in urns

Spiky Japanese yews, which like shade, are potted in cast stone urns just under the overhang.

Egg & Dart round garden urn, $91, accentsinthegarden.com

5 REASONS TO LOVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

1. LOCATION! Roughly defined by I-75 to the west and I-85 to the east, Buckhead occupies the center of the city. It takes about 20 minutes to get downtown.

2. DISTINCT ARCHITECTURE. Many areas were developed in the first quarter of the twentieth century, when a profusion of charming house and cottage styles flourished.

3. PEACHTREE HEIGHTS EAST DUCK POND. Yes, it's as cute as the name suggests: a tree-lined park surrounding a lake with picturesque stone bridges, where ducks swim (and roam!) freely.

4. IT'S PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY. Wide, shaded sidewalks plus restaurants and shops within walking distance make Buckhead a haven for runners, bicyclists, and strollers.

5. GARDEN HILLS POOL AND REC CENTER. The ultimate neighborhood gathering spot, it's open to all city of Atlanta residents and can be rented for parties.

NUMBERS: J.MUCKLE/STUDIO D; YEW: COURTESY OF MONROVIA

what life costs in...

HARWICH, MA
(80 MILES FROM BOSTON)

Population	12,677
Median home price	$306,100
Median household income	$51,264

Real estate report
“Home prices here are about 15 percent lower now versus five years ago, but waterfront properties have better retained their value.” —John M. Kelly of Peter McDowell Associates

THE BILL PILE

HALF GALLON OF HORIZON ORGANIC MILK..... $4.40

BOTTLE OF TIDE (50 OZ.)..... $7.50

SPEEDING TICKET FOR GOING 10 MPH OVER THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE HIGHWAY.....$100

TIRE ROTATION AT AN AUTO SHOP..... $20

LARGE DOMINO'S PEPPERONI PIZZA.....$12.49

ONE DOZEN CUPCAKES..... $27
at Bonatt's Bakery

ADULT DENTAL CLEANING.....$114

ONE DOZEN ROSES, DELIVERED.....$90
from Kremp Florist

FIREPLACE CLEANING..... $195

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AT THE YMCA..... $79/month

PREMIUM DIGITAL CABLE PACKAGE (PHONE AND INTERNET INCLUDED)..... $159.99/mo
from Comcast

TICKET TO AN ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE.....from $27
for the Cape Cod Symphony

HOUSE STATS
4 BR, 4 BA
2,500 sq. ft.
Built in 1927
Bought in 2003
$660,000
Property taxes
$6,500/yr

MEET THE FAMILY
Cindy Nagrath, a marketing and media manager; and Raj Nagrath, an accessories designer and business owner; with Asha, 18, and Kailie, 22

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **BOB O'CONNOR** (left) and **CHRIST CHÁVEZ** REPORTED BY **AMELIA MULARZ**

Meet two families who live in two very different parts of the country. See how their expenses compare.

MEET THE FAMILY
Sharon Bright, an interior decorator; and U.S. Army Major Aaron Bright; with Annabelle, 6; Priscilla, 10; Vivienne, 2; and Tootsie, their Labrador mix

EL PASO, TX

Population	667,868
Median home price	$133,031
Median household income	$43,071

Real estate report
"Unlike many other markets, El Paso's hasn't had drastic swings. On average, a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home here costs around $150,000."
—Claudia Hargrove, Coldwell Banker De Wetter Hovious

THE BILL PILE

HALF GALLON OF HORIZON ORGANIC MILK.....$4.25

BOTTLE OF TIDE (50 OZ.).....$8.10

SPEEDING TICKET FOR GOING 10 MPH OVER THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE HIGHWAY..... $158.10

TIRE ROTATION AT AN AUTO SHOP..... $9

LARGE DOMINO'S PEPPERONI PIZZA..... $8.99

ONE DOZEN CUPCAKES.....$15
at Aneshly Cakes

ADULT DENTAL CLEANING..... $72

ONE DOZEN ROSES, DELIVERED..... $72.50
from Not Just a Flower Shop

FIREPLACE CLEANING..... $133

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AT THE YMCA $68/month

PREMIUM DIGITAL CABLE PACKAGE (PHONE AND INTERNET INCLUDED).....$119.99/mo
from Time Warner Cable

TICKET TO AN ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE.....from $15
for the El Paso Symphony

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What does home mean to you?
Share your favorite photos with us
+ You might see them on TV

Tag with **#HGTV & #lovehome** on Instagram
And check out the gallery at **HGTV.com/LoveHome**

HGTV

that's duct tape?! yep!

The new versions are as durable as the trusty silver stuff, but they're made for showing off. See how we put them to use.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **AARON DYER** WRITTEN BY **JESSICA DODELL-FEDER** CREATED BY **ANTHONY SANTELLI**

Make pop art

Cut a 2-inch square of duct tape and place it in the center of a 12-inch-by-12-inch canvas panel (from $2, at craft stores). Surround it with four 6-inch-long pieces of tape in a contrasting color, slightly overlapping the edges to form a bigger square. Repeat with four 10-inch-long pieces of your center color, pressing tape down firmly. Frame.

TAPE: From left: Scotch cherry red and sea blue; Scotch green apple and cherry red; Scotch violet purple and sunshine yellow

Jazz up a ceiling fan

If you can, remove the blades. Starting at the part of the blade closest to the center of the fan base, apply strips of tape 2 inches apart. (You can use 2-inch painter's tape as a guide to keep spacing even.) For the rounded edge, lay a strip of duct tape over the end of the blade, then flip it over and trim the excess with a utility knife. Remove painter's tape and reattach blades.

TAPE: Platypus pool chevron

Stripe bath accessories

Following the tips in "Sticking Points" (opposite page), trim strips of tape with a utility knife so they are each 1 inch wide and vary in length. Round the edges (you can eyeball the shape), then adhere them to each container, wrapping the tape under the bottom.

TAPE: Duck Brand wavy green and Scotch green apple

Brighten switch plates

Line up two strips of tape on the front of the plate. Trim to fit, leaving a little to fold over the back. Turn the plate facedown and cut out the openings with a utility knife.

TAPE: Clockwise from top left: Duck Brand zig zag, Scotch safari, Kid Made Modern kit in tonal (crosses and green dots), Platypus modern houndstooth, Scotch retro tiles, Platypus blue paisley, Platypus pink polka dot

Give a chair a plaid seat

Unscrew the chair seat if you can. Following the tips in "Sticking Points" (at right), trim four colors of tape into 1-inch-wide strips, using the seat's diameter as a guide for length. Starting in the middle of the seat, apply the strips of tape diagonally, 2 inches apart, working toward the corners. (Use 2-inch painter's tape as a guide to keep spacing even.) Wrap the tape under the seat's edge and press firmly; remove painter's tape. Then apply stripes on the opposite diagonal, following the same steps.

TAPE: Duck Brand deep blue ocean; Scotch sunshine yellow, tangerine orange, and blue turquoise

STICKING POINTS

Wonder what's so great about crafting with tape that's usually used for patching pipes? Easy: Duct tape is long-lasting, water-resistant, and neater than paint—and if you mess up, just peel it off and start again. Follow these tips when you work with this sticky stuff:

- It's easiest to cut the tape with a utility knife that has a sharp blade. But if you do use scissors and the blades get gummed up, wipe them with a little Goo Gone.
- To cut the tape with a utility knife, stick the tape on a cutting mat (find them at craft stores) or a sheet of parchment paper. Use a straight edge, like a ruler, to get precise lines. After cutting, just peel off the tape and apply it.
- To make sure the tape's edges don't peel up, run over each strip firmly with a straight edge, like an old credit card, after you apply it.

Zigzag magazine files

Starting at a corner, place a strip of tape diagonally across the back of the file. Cut it to fit so the tape overlaps the file's sides by about ¾ inch. Repeat, alternating tape colors, leaving about ½ inch of space between each tape strip, until you've covered the file.

TAPE: Scotch tangerine orange and hot pink

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HGTV magazine

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It's that time of the year to **refresh**, **renew**, and **revamp**. If your closet is in need of some serious organization, you're in luck. One Twitter follower will win closet solutions worth $500!

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- Tweet **@hgtvmagpromo** with hashtag #homeresolutions
- You'll be automatically entered into our random drawing to win the ultimate closet makeover!

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the **most embarrassing** living room in america!

But not for long! We teamed up with HGTV's **Meg Caswell** and named these lucky homeowners the winners of a major makeover.

Daryl Jelle and Nicole Bieniek were all smiles after winning our nationwide search.

BEFORES: BRENT RENO; HAIR AND MAKEUP: INGRID KENT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DAVID A. LAND** WRITTEN BY **JENNIFER BERNO**

When Nicole Bieniek and her fiancé, Daryl Jelle, heard about our hunt for The Most Embarrassing Living Room in America, they had a hunch their self-described "room of randomness" could take the prize. The couple bought their split-level home in Burnsville, MN, right out of college in October 2011 and furnished the living room on the cheap with hand-me-downs and quirky online finds. They ignored the cringe-inducing green carpet that came with the house, set up a big-screen TV and a pool table, and hung a collection of road signs on the walls, but nothing gelled. "What we really wanted was to combine both of our styles in a comfy room, but we had a strict budget," says Nicole. So when they found out they won a makeover from HGTV designer Meg Caswell, they were ecstatic! They immediately wrote out their wish list: Nix the carpet, add lots of color, and create a space where friends would want to hang out. Meg did all that and more. "When they saw the finished room, Daryl told me I turned their 'starter home' into a 'forever home' because they'll never want to move," says Meg. "Now that's a great compliment!"

Tune in to ***THE MOST EMBARRASSING LIVING ROOM IN AMERICA*** on HGTV on January 18 at 8 p.m. ET, and watch Meg transform Nicole and Daryl's home.

AFTER

CUSTOMIZED CEILING AND WALLS

Meg and HGTV carpenter Marc Bartolomeo used beams and trim molding to create a dramatic coffered ceiling, which completely changed the blank box room. The wood is painted ivory (White River by Benjamin Moore) to stand out against the cool gray ceiling (Stingray by Benjamin Moore). Meg's wallpaper choice has a trellis pattern in the same subtle shades.

TOTALLY NEW FLOORS

So long, green carpet! Meg couldn't rip it up fast enough. In its place, she chose Brazilian Koa engineered hardwood, which looks like solid wood but stands up better to moisture and temperature change. She added a durable charcoal gray wool rug from West Elm.

PLENTY OF COLORS

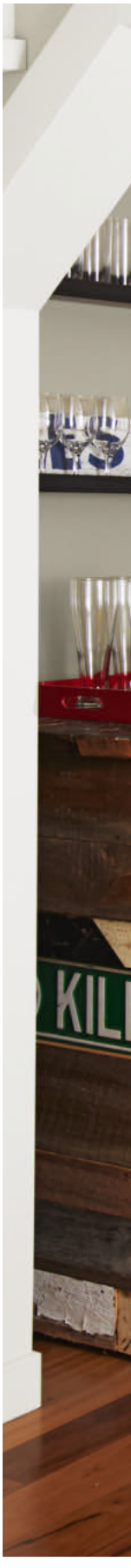
"I really wanted to give them a fun, energetic space," says Meg. "Luckily I convinced Daryl to get rid of that pool table!" They also ditched the hand-me-down furniture to make room for a blue sofa from Crate and Barrel, a pair of striped armchairs from West Elm, and custom yellow ottomans and orangey-red poufs. Pillows on the sofa pull all the hues together. Now friends can hang out comfortably—the ottomans scooch around to make extra seating.

LIGHT GALORE

Originally, the long room had only two overhead lights, one on each side, which cast a dim glow. "The whole space felt dark and dingy," says Meg. So she played up the natural light from the wide bank of windows (behind the striped chairs) by hanging unlined white curtain panels, and she spread can lights across the ceiling. She also added a star-shaped vintage chandelier in the bar area (at right) and spotlights in the bookshelves.

A SHOW-OFF SPOT

Meg designed a built-in bookcase to camouflage the tiny window (previous page) and hold the TV. She filled the shelves with accessories that wink at the makeover. For instance, the pool table didn't make the cut, but Meg arranged the billiard balls (along with colored lightbulbs) in glass vases. As a nod to Nicole's hunting hobby, she hung a set of antlers, spray-painted gold, on the back of the shelf.



Nicole and Daryl can tape photos right onto the frame-patterned wallpaper.

A COZY PLACE FOR PARTIES

Nicole and Daryl's new bar is made of reclaimed wood and a mash-up of signs. Meg and her carpenter, Marc, propped it up on wheels so it can roll out into the room and Daryl can play bartender. A counter-height table with stools is a cool gathering spot. "We've had people over a lot since the makeover," says Nicole. "And no one misses that pool table!" A final highlight: a panel of frame-patterned wallpaper that's surrounded by more reclaimed wood.

FOR SHOPPING SOURCES, SEE PAGE 118.

what's your new

Forget going to the gym. These pros have ceiling painting, towel swapping, and window cleaning on their 2013 to-do list.

"I want to have a **pot filler** installed in my kitchen. Why didn't I insist on that when we were remodeling?"
—*Casey Noble,* Design on a Dime

"I promise to OPEN MY MAIL as soon as it arrives."
—*Jessica Dodell-Feder, senior associate editor*

"Sign up for a **fruit and vegetable** service from a local farm."
—*Sherry Petersik, blogger, Young House Love*

"I'm going to organize the black hole under my sink. I have no idea exactly what's under there, but I'm going to find out."
—*Kate Doherty, market editor*

"I'll put **pictures of my shoes** on the outside of the shoe boxes so I can find the right ones in the morning."
—*Tara Seawright, designer, New York City, NY*

"I'm **PAINTING** my daughter's bedroom **CEILING PINK** and stenciling on **GLITTERY STARS**."
—*Amie Sikes,* Junk Gypsies

"I promise to start washing my **makeup brushes** once a week!"
—*Camille Styles, hgtv.com contributor*

NOBLE: ANDREW STILES; SIKES, CASWELL: MATT HARBICHT/GETTY IMAGES FOR HGTV; COLANERI: CHRISTOPHER AMARAL PHOTOGRAPHY/HGTV

year's home resolution?

"SWAP THE COLOR OF MY **TOWELS** WITH THE SEASON."

—*David Bromstad,* HGTV Design Star

"I'm replacing the fussy window treatments around my house with airy white linen panels."

—*Dina Manzo,* Dina's Party

"I'm going to buy **truffle oil** so I don't have to wait to go to a restaurant to enjoy it!"

—*Meg Caswell,* Meg's Great Rooms

"Sync my iPhone ***calendar*** with my husband's so we can make plans without checking in with each other all the time."

—*Betsy Goldberg, deputy editor*

"Organize the magazines in my office. I'm going to cut the corners off cereal boxes to make them look like file boxes, then cover them with chalkboard contact paper and line them up on a bookshelf."

—*Taniya Nayak,* House Hunters on Vacation

"The tumbled marble in my bath feels old-fashioned, so I'm switching it to a **glass mosaic pattern**."

—*John Colaneri,* Kitchen Cousins

"I'll remember to use a drop cloth so I **stop spray-painting my grass**."

—Monica Mangin, blogger, East Coast Creative

"With seven kids, we go through a ton of **plastic water bottles**. So we're going to buy everyone in the family their own **reusable bottle** and label it with his or her name."

—Cortney Novogratz,
Home by Novogratz

"My whole house is neutral, but in 2013 I promise to bring in a little **orange, blue, and green**. I think I'll start with dish towels. Brave, huh?"

—Melissa Mariola Wurman, managing editor

"I'm going to **turn the thermostat down** a couple more degrees to save energy."

—Jonathan Scott,
Property Brothers

"Buy fresh flowers weekly!"

—Genevieve Gorder,
Dear Genevieve

"I'm going to get some dishwasher-safe **stemless wine glasses**. Don't tell, but I drink wine out of a juice glass with dinner!"

—Brett Hill, executive editor

"A top priority: Get my husband **(who owns a window cleaning business)** to actually **clean our windows** this year."

—Jessica Jackson, blogger, East Coast Creative

GREG MARINO/STUDIO D; SHUTTERSTOCK; SCOTT: © 2012, CINEFLIX INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LTD/COURTESY OF HGTV

"I need to stop keeping all my **CRYSTAL** hidden in the cabinet. Why not bring out a vase or bowl to hold coins?"

—Tracy L. Morris, designer, Bethesda, MD

"We're upgrading our metal mailbox to one that will match the stone on our house."

—Chip Wade, Elbow Room

"I'm replacing my chipped white dishes with **melamine ones**."

—Sally Wheat, designer, Houston, TX

"I'm going to install a motion-sensor light switch in our mudroom that flips on as we walk through the door—incredibly handy when you're coming home with your arms full of groceries."

—Matt Muenster, Bath Crashers

"Stop sending **emails** for birthdays and start sending real cards."

—Erica Cohen, market assistant

"I used 'I don't have a dining table' as an excuse not to entertain for most of last year. Well, I finally got one, and I love it! I'm going to start inviting friends over for weekend dinners ASAP!"

—Jennifer Berno, home editor

"I'll **use rinse aid in my dishwasher**. I'm always surprised how great my glasses look when I remember."

—Rachael Weiner, senior associate home editor

Rooms big enough to park the whole family!

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The Cheek family on their updated front porch.

mr.&mrs. DIY

They painted! They tiled! They woodworked! And Lindsey and Grayson Cheek are thrilled with the results in their adorable first home, budget intact.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DAVID A. LAND** WRITTEN BY **JENNIFER BERNO** STYLING BY **ELIZABETH DEMOS**

It was the last "bad" house on a great block. That's how Lindsey and Grayson Cheek describe the 1917 cottage they swooped up in downtown Wilmington, NC, in 2009, right after a couple of local contractors got it into "selling shape." "The contractors took it down to the studs and made it look new," says Lindsey. "But there was still a ton of work we wanted to do." At the time Grayson had just finished law school, and Lindsey was supporting them on her salary as a wedding planner, so their nesting budget was tight. "All we had was a box spring and a mattress in our bedroom—the walls were totally bare," says Lindsey. Over the next three years, Grayson joined a local law firm, Lindsey changed career paths, and they welcomed a daughter, Tilley-Gray. They also became experts at home improvement projects both large (making built-in bookcases) and small (replacing cabinet knobs). They hired pros for the work that was beyond their skill set and found many ways to economize, like painting the whole house themselves, using inexpensive materials where they could, snagging stuff at thrift stores, and even rescuing a sofa from the dump. "We've invested lots of time in the house, but we saved lots of money, too," says Lindsey. "Nothing was immediate, but we appreciate everything more because we did it ourselves."

MEET THE OWNERS

Lindsey Cheek, co-owner of Poplin & Queen Interiors, an interior design firm, and a blogger (Fifi Cheek); Grayson Cheek, an attorney; and their daughter, Tilley-Gray
HOMETOWN: Wilmington, NC
THE CHALLENGE: To decorate their first home on a shoestring budget.

A painting by Lindsey's friend hangs over a console in the living room. The mercury glass lamp was a HomeGoods find.

living room

what they did:

- **Built bookshelves**
- **Reupholstered a discarded sofa, a chair, and a pair of stools**

Grayson teamed up with Lindsey's grandfather Roger, an architect and furniture designer, to build the shelves as a weekend project. "I drew a picture of what I wanted, and they spent about $1,000 on materials," says Lindsey. "It's the heart of the room, so it was worth every penny." Across the top of the bookcase, Grayson wired in a set of industrial-style clip-on lamps that the couple bought on a "before-baby bucket list" trip to Paris in 2010. Grayson found the sofa at the dump and brought it home as a surprise for Lindsey. "We saved up for a year before we could afford to have it refinished and recovered in white leather," says Lindsey. They found the armchair and x-base stools at a local thrift shop and had those recovered in modern fabrics.

Window shade: Flat Roman shade in Ogee Aquamarine from theshadestore.com

kitchen

what they did:

- **Installed a marble backsplash**
- **Switched out cabinet hardware**
- **Hung a pendant light and a custom window shade**
- **Brought in a movable island**

"Grayson had his work cut out for him in here," says Lindsey. The kitchen came without any sort of backsplash, so Grayson watched YouTube videos to learn how to install tile. He used an inexpensive marble, which came in 12-inch-square sheets, to cover the space between the counters and the upper cabinets. "The best lesson he learned: Measure three times and cut just once," says Lindsey. Grayson also changed out all the cabinet hardware, replacing bronze knobs with shiny nickel ones, and hung a new pendant light with crystal accents above the sink. An aqua-gray and white Roman shade dresses the window, and for added prep space, Lindsey brought in a rolling butcher-block-topped island from Kmart.

TIP:
Look for ready-made kitchen islands at inexpensive retailers like Kmart, Target, and Walmart. Another great source: restaurant supply stores.

dining area

what they did:

- Painted and recovered the dining chairs
- Added lighting
- Hung custom-made curtains

The vintage Karges dining table was a thrift store find, as were the caned chairs. "We painted the chairs white and had the cushions upholstered in white vinyl to match the leather sofa. It was a major penny saver at just $7 per yard," says Lindsey. The side chairs were hand-me-downs from Grayson's parents that Lindsey updated with striped fabric. She mixed the traditional furniture with a modern chandelier and added a formal touch with French-pleat silk curtains in mustard yellow. "The curtains are the biggest splurge in the house because they required 30 yards of fabric, plus I hired a seamstress to sew and line them," says Lindsey. "They're definitely coming with us if we ever move!" A chunky jute rug from World Market defines the dining area that's between the kitchen and the living room.

TIP:
Mix antique furniture with fabrics and rugs that have modern patterns. These beds look current on the graphic carpet.

Lindsey pins up photos on a burlap-covered corkboard in the guest room that doubles as her home office.

guest room

what they did:

- Framed and hung prints
- Created an organized home office area

The twin four-poster beds, which were in Grayson's room when he was growing up, are perfect for the guests the couple host during the summer. Lindsey's hope chest, which her grandfather built for her mother using chestnut wood, got a second life as a bedside table. "I want to pass it down to Tilley-Gray," says Lindsey. The prints above each bed, by Cuban American artist Mario Sanchez, were gifts from Grayson's uncle. Lindsey framed them with black mats and bamboo-style frames. The guest room also serves as Lindsey's home office. A Parsons desk from West Elm and a homemade burlap-covered corkboard keep things tidy. The wallpaper in the adjoining hall was Grayson's first wedding anniversary present to Lindsey, since one year is the paper anniversary.

nursery

what they did:

- Customized a dresser
- Hung homemade curtains
- Spray-painted the light fixture

Lindsey customized a white IKEA dresser with graphic laser-cut wood overlays (myoverlays .com), which she painted hot pink before attaching. The overlays are made specifically to fit IKEA furniture, and they stay on with tiny nails in each corner. "We added feet, too, so the dresser would be tall enough to work as a changing table," she says. The rug is from overstock.com, and the light fixture, another IKEA find, went from white to gold with spray paint. Lindsey's aunt sewed the curtains using fabric that Lindsey found on lsfabrics.com for about $20 a yard. "I wanted the curtains to be bright and fun but not babyish. Tilley-Gray can keep these for a long time."

living area

Pattern potpourri

Nothing "matches," but everything flows in this space. "I started with the rug, which has stripes in brown and cream," say Linda Woodrum, HGTV Dream Home designer. She added a sofa covered in taupe fabric and livened up a pair of classic club chairs with a bold medallion print. "It works because the pattern has the same colors as the rug." Linen curtains with a beige check hang from iron-finish rods.

Clever furniture

The green corner chair is made with woven rattan for a coastal look. Over the fireplace, Linda hung a vintage gate that she found at an architectural salvage yard near Charleston. The brass side table is shaped like a drum, and the coffee table is actually two rectangular tables butted together to make an extra-large surface. Genius!

what a great great room!

Interior designer Linda Woodrum breaks down her brightest ideas from the HGTV Dream Home in Kiawah Island, SC.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **PHILIP FICKS**
WRITTEN BY **JENNIFER BERNO**

dining area

Lots of fresh green

Linda chose a vibrant grassy green for the walls in the great room. The ceilings in the dining area and kitchen are coated in the same bright color for added oomph. "It's an easier paint job when the walls and ceiling are the same shade," she says.

Double pendants

"When you have a lot of ceiling space, one light fixture isn't enough," Linda says. She hung two iron cage pendants above the table so the light would be even across it. For an easy style switch-up, the circular paper shades can be removed to show off a pretty bulb.

Mixed-up dining chairs

"Eight of the same style can look plain. Changing up the host seats is a great way to add personality to a table," says Linda, who chose all-weather woven armchairs for the heads of the table. "The cushions make them comfy, and you can take them outside."

A GREEN CEILING IS FUN IN AN ALL-WHITE KITCHEN!

kitchen

A cool combo of neutrals

"If everything were the same color, the kitchen wouldn't have much character," says Linda, who mixed relaxed neutrals in the cook space: gray lower cabinets, a white island and fridge panel, and bright white quartz counters. She painted a trio of floating shelves the same rich gray as the lower cabinets so they stand out against the slick white glass backsplash.

pantry

A fully stocked space

Linda divided the walk-in pantry into open storage and hidden under-counter storage. The floating shelves hold decorative bottles, dinnerware, and entertaining essentials. The lower section, which is skirted with a lift-up fabric curtain, is for staples like canned goods. To clear up more counter space in the kitchen, Linda also put the microwave in the pantry.

WIN THE HGTV DREAM HOME

Go to hgtv.com/dreamhome to tour the entire house, and, starting December 28, 2012, enter for a chance to win it!

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kitchen chronicles

9 little changes
1 BIG DIFFERENCE

This Virginia family's kitchen didn't feel like home until they made a few easy upgrades.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **LAURA MOSS** WRITTEN BY **TERRI SAPIENZA** STYLING BY **STEPHANIE HANES**

Madelyn Smith knew she'd found "the one" the first time she stepped inside the McLean, VA, home that she and her husband, Dominic, ended up buying. It was perfect...well, *almost* perfect. The newly built kitchen—with white cabinetry, a walnut-topped island, marble countertops, and top-of-the-line appliances—was gorgeous, but it still felt like somebody else's house. No pep, no personality. Madelyn wanted to keep the room's good bones but add her own flare. So she asked Washington, D.C., interior designer Marika Meyer to help her tweak the space. See how they turned a blank canvas into a stylish spot for Madelyn's high-energy family of five.

1 Fiery red barstools

Metal stools from the Sundance Catalog got a makeover with a coat of primer and red paint (Salsa by Benjamin Moore). "The stools are crazy comfortable because of their extra-big square seats," says Madelyn.

2 Pot filler faucet

Dominic, a former restaurant owner and an avid cook, suggested a wall-mounted pot filler at the range. "It's a great little time-saver," says Madelyn. "I make tea every morning, and I can fill my kettle right at the stove."

3 Bronze pendants

A substantial island calls for substantial lighting, so Madelyn and Marika picked out three hefty pendants. They're big enough to illuminate the space, whether the kids are doing art projects or Mom and Dad are chopping veggies.

4 Bright accessories

Madelyn filled the shelves above the sink with go-to cookbooks and colorful vases and jars. "I've collected the pottery over the years," she says. "Some pieces were gifts, and now I have the just-right spot to show them off."

5 Painted cabinets

The glass-front cabinets along the ceiling are nine feet up—too high to be practical for everyday storage. So the insides are painted dark teal (Blue Danube by Benjamin Moore) and filled with antique olive jars.

6 New backsplash

The old backsplash (ceramic and glass tiles with a floral pattern) was too ornate for Madelyn's taste, so it was subway tile to the rescue. To kick up the style behind the stove, she chose slightly smaller tiles in a herringbone pattern.

Madelyn with
Avery, 5, and twins
Nick and Julia, 2

7 Wow windows

"The four shades that span across the windows are like art for the room," says Madelyn. Bonus: Roman shades require about half the fabric that drapes do, so they're a money-saving option, especially for a large expanse.

8 A stellar chandelier

The original dining area had a puny light fixture that made it look empty and drab. An iron chandelier that matches the bronze pendants over the island was swapped in. This large one (44¼" wide) is a nice fit above the oval table.

9 Non-kitchen-y rugs

Madelyn put a wool runner between the island and the stove (page 97) and this wool Soumak rug under the table in the dining area. "It's super durable, and the colors and pattern hide spills, crumbs, and Cheerios," she says.

HAIR: MARZIE MOHAMMADI; MAKEUP: ADRIAN AVILA; TILES: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D

NOW, GET THE LOOK!

pendant
Sloane single bronze pendant with metal shade, $525, circalighting.com

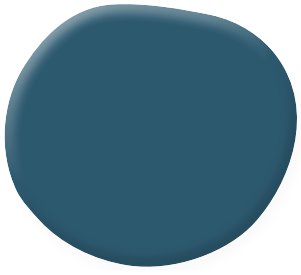
roman shade fabric
Wilmington Multi, $27 per yard, calicocorners.com

chandelier
Visual Comfort small Flemish aged iron linear pendant, $483, lightingnewyork.com

pot filler
Delta Faucet chrome pot filler, $362, bellacor.com

vases
Imax ceramic vases, $88 for a set of 3, wayfair.com

backsplash tiles
Waterworks Studio Cottage Field tile in dover white glossy solid, $15 per square foot, waterworks.com



interior cabinet paint
Blue Danube by Benjamin Moore

stool
Garden backless barstool, $139, homedecorators.com

area rug
E Carpet Gallery Persian hand-knotted red 4'3" x 6' rug, $379, rugsusa.com

flour in the **freezer?** coffee in the **fridge?**

Don’t believe everything Grandma told you! Experts answer 10 food storage questions.

How do you keep brown sugar from hardening?

Put it in a resealable plastic bag or an airtight container. If you'd rather keep it in the bag or box it came in, try a brown sugar saver ($4, surlatable.com), a ceramic disk that you soak in water, pat dry, then add to the brown sugar to keep it soft. If your sugar's already rock hard, transfer it to a sealed jar along with a slice of bread—the sugar will absorb moisture from the bread and soften in about two days (discard the bread once the sugar's back to normal). Need it soft sooner? "Put the sugar on a plate with a damp paper towel on top and microwave it for 30-second intervals until it's soft," says Deborah Beauvais, R.D., a spokesperson on food safety and preparation for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The basil at the grocery store always looks fresh and green, but it turns brown and wilts the minute I get it home. How do you make it last?

Immediately put it in a resealable plastic freezer bag and stick it in your fridge's crisper drawer, where it should last for up to a week. "Don't wash the basil first," says Beauvais. "The drier the leaves, the longer they'll stay fresh." Skip wrapping herbs in a damp paper towel for the same reason.

Should spices really be stored away from the oven and stove to protect their flavor?

Yes. The heat from the oven, or even a toaster, can make dried spices go stale sooner. "A cool, dark cupboard is the best place to keep them," says Beauvais. Stored this way, whole, dried spices will last two years; cut, dried spices one year; and ground spices up to six months.

Is washing fruits and veggies before putting them away a good idea, or does it make them go bad faster?

Moisture can lead to mold growth, so it's best to wait to wash produce until right before you use it. That said, if you want to save time by cleaning it before storing it, do so only with firm produce, like apples, carrots, and peppers. These are easier to blot dry than soft fruits and vegetables, like grapes, berries, and lettuce.

Fact or fiction: Never store milk on the refrigerator door.

Definitely fact. "The door is the warmest part of your fridge—especially if you have kids opening and closing it all day," says Joan Salge Blake, R.D., a nutrition professor at Boston University. The best spot for milk is on a shelf in the back, which is a few degrees colder than the rest of the fridge. That's also the best place for eggs.

So many recipes call for specialty vinegars, such as apple cider or champagne vinegar. How long can you keep them after they're open?

Vinegar is an intensely acidic preservative, so it's fairly immune to bacteria growth, but after about a year, it loses flavor. Be sure to always tightly reseal the bottle and keep it in a dark cupboard. The next time you're ready to use it, take a whiff or check the "best used by" date. And though you don't need to refrigerate vinegars, says Beauvais, it can preserve flavor longer, especially in fruit- and herb-infused versions.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you thaw meat in the refrigerator rather than on the counter or in cold water, it's safe to refreeze what you don't use.

Should ketchup live in the fridge once it's open?

Manufacturers suggest it should. But if you and your family are ketchup addicts (definition: You go through a bottle a month), you may not need to keep it cold. Ketchup is very acidic, which makes the risk of bacteria growth low, even without refrigeration. That said, keeping ketchup in the fridge helps maintain its flavor for up to six months, says Shelley Feist, executive director of the Partnership for Food Safety Education, which is why most people do it.

Where's the best place to store flour if you don't use it very often?

In the freezer, in an airtight container. White flour will stay fresh and bug-free for up to 24 months there, versus 12 to 18 months in the pantry, according to the experts at King Arthur Flour. If you're short on freezer space, divide the flour into smaller plastic tubs with tight-fitting lids. Whole-grain flours should also go in the freezer from the get-go and be used within six months, says Salge Blake. "They contain more oil than refined white flour and can go rancid faster."

How long can you keep meat frozen before you use it?

"From a food safety standpoint, frozen meat will last indefinitely as long as your freezer stays at 0 degrees Fahrenheit," says Salge Blake. "But quality can suffer: After just a month, frozen meat can dry out and develop freezer burn, which affects texture and taste." If you don't plan to use the meat within 30 days, leave it in the store packaging and cover it with a layer of plastic-coated freezer paper, or repackage it in a resealable freezer bag. Write the date on each package, following these best-if-used-by guidelines:

- Sausage: one to two months
- Whole poultry: one to two months
- Hot dogs: two to three months
- Ground meat: three to four months
- Roasts, steaks, and chops: four to 12 months
- Poultry parts: nine months

Where does coffee stay freshest: in the pantry, fridge, or freezer?

The pantry. "Refrigerating or freezing coffee puts it in contact with moisture, which can ruin the taste," says Beauvais. Transfer coffee to an airtight glass, metal, or ceramic container, or keep it in the can it came in, if it has an airtight seal. (You can use an airtight plastic container, but because plastic absorbs oils and odors from food, designate that one as "coffee only.") Then store it in a cool, dark place, like a cabinet. "If you prefer keeping it out on the counter, choose a spot that doesn't get direct sunlight," Beauvais says.

WRITTEN BY **VIRGINIA SOLE-SMITH**

PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D; RASPBERRIES: J MUCKLE/STUDIO D; SUGAR: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D; MEAT: SHUTTERSTOCK; COFFEE: JEFFREY WESTBROOK/STUDIO D; BAG, MILK: ISTOCKPHOTO; PASTA, COFFEE TIN: ALAMY; CUMIN: STUART TYSON/STUDIO D

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1 purple mixer

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Passion Flower Power Advantage hand mixer, $50, cuisinart.com

2 polka-dot peeler

Great quality. Sweet design. Must-have tool!

Kuhn Rikon Swiss peeler, $5, surlatable.com

3 flowery glass

Unlike a lot of patterned glassware, this pretty juice cup is dishwasher-safe.

Flowers tumbler, $8, zarahome.com

8 corkscrew & foil cutter

A foolproof way to open a bottle of wine.

Activ-Ball set, $30, lecreuset.com

7 ceramic bowls

You can never have too many mini prep bowls.

Ramekins, $3 each, pier1.com

9 cheerful canisters

Not just adorable, these have rubber gaskets to keep supplies fresh.

Striped ceramic canister set, $50, distinctive-decor.com

GREG MARINO/STUDIO D; CORKSCREW: LARA ROBBY/STUDIO D

for the kitchen

4 **plastic colander**
It'll be your go-to strainer for pasta and veggies.
Koziol Palsby colander, $6, allmodern.com

5 **bendable measuring cups**
Squeeze and pour. No-spill cooking!
Pinch & Pour measuring cup set, $30, crateandbarrel.com

6 **dish towel**
Superabsorbent, fast-drying, and a poppy pattern, too.
MUkitchen dish towel, $11, casa.com

10 **oven mitt**
A Scottie dog pattern makes one fetching kitchen helper.
Scottie shadow holder, $14, anthropologie.com

11 **sweet spatula**
The right ingredient for making Valentine's Day treats.
DCI I'm in Spatu-love, $13, modcloth.com

12 **morning essential**
A bright (and very affordable) way to start the day.
Teakettle, $25, HomeGoods stores

PRODUCED BY **KATE DOHERTY**

“my signature dish”

Nicole Sparks and Jenna Marwitz, a.k.a. The Crockin’ Girls, share the simple soup that’s become a family favorite.

“When we go to a restaurant and we want soup, Nicole and I always look for chicken tortilla,” says Jenna, near left. So the Brownwood, TX–based friends turned cookbook authors came up with an easy Crock-Pot version that they can make anytime the tortilla soup craving strikes. “Just the smell of it cooking is comforting,” says Nicole. And even though the recipe sneaks in a lot of veggies (tomatoes, carrots, corn, and more), their kids still go crazy for it. “They love the soup by itself, or sometimes we serve it with quesadillas or grilled cheese sandwiches to dip in it,” says Jenna. The kids sprinkle on their own cheese and tortilla chip toppings, too. Nicole adds, “The more hands-on they are, the more they enjoy eating.”

Recipe adapted from *The Crockin’ Girls Slow Cookin’ Companion* ($33, barnesandnoble.com)

RECIPE

slow cooker chicken tortilla soup

SERVES 6–8

Ingredients

- 2 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 14½-ounce can diced tomatoes with green chilies
- 1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
- 2 14½-ounce cans chicken broth
- 1 10¾-ounce can cheddar cheese soup
- 2 cups chopped carrots
- 8 ounces frozen corn
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ tablespoon chili powder
- Handful of chopped cilantro
- Salt and pepper

Garnishes

- Shredded cheese (Monterey Jack or a Mexican blend)
- Sliced avocados
- Tortilla chips

1. Combine all the ingredients except the garnishes in a slow cooker.
2. Cook on high for 5 to 6 hours or on low for about 8 hours.
3. Ladle into bowls and top each with garnishes.

QUICK TIP
The Crockin’ Girls use presliced “carrot chips” (the kind that look like pickle slices), cut in half.

KATE MATHIS; FOOD STYLING: CARRIE PURCELL

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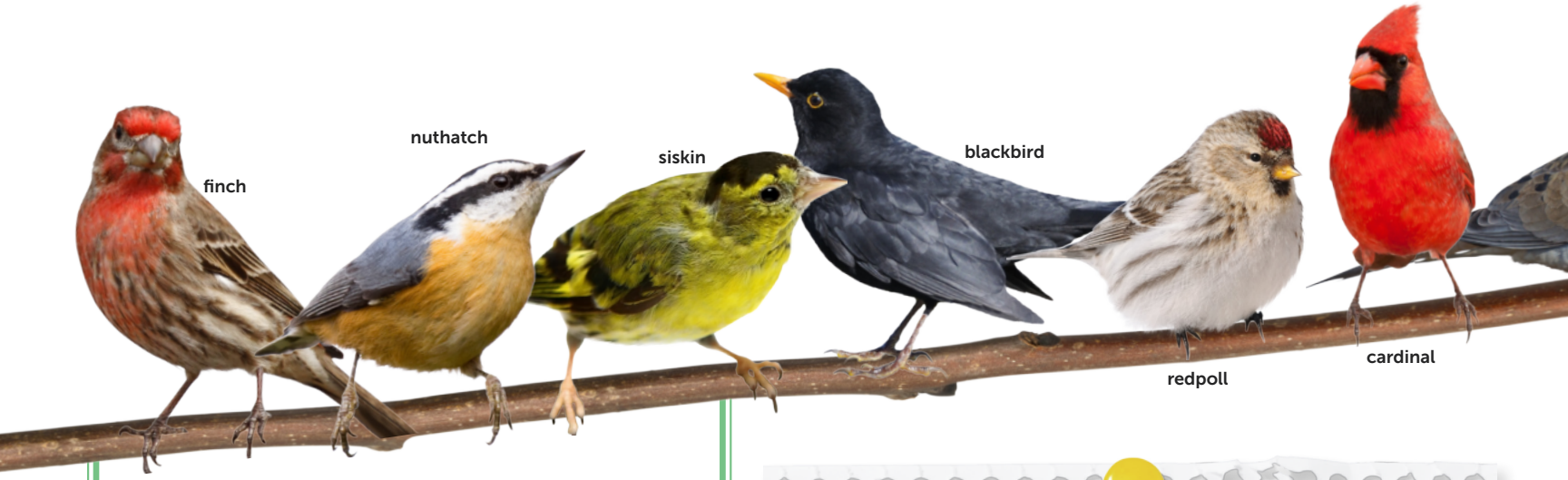
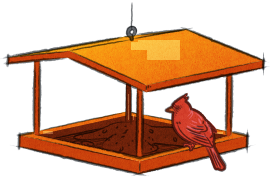
time to feed the birds

February is National Bird Feeding Month—and for good reason. Winter weather makes food hard to find, so birds are on the hunt for steady meals. Follow these tips to set up a smorgasbord in your yard.

PHOTOGRAPH BY **AARON DYER** WRITTEN BY **JESSICA DODELL-FEDER**

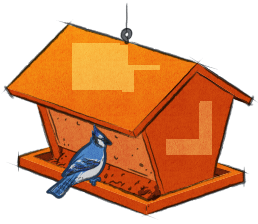


THE FOUR TYPES OF FEEDERS



Platform A tray with a ledge that attracts most kinds of birds, this basic feeder can be mounted pretty much anywhere. Look for one with a screened bottom for drainage and a roof to help keep seed dry from snow and rain.

Tube This hollow cylinder targets smaller birds, such as sparrows, chickadees, and finches. Hang it from a tree or a tall stake in the ground. Pick one with metal ports around the dispensers to guard against seed-hungry squirrels.



Hopper This house-shaped feeder can hold several pounds of seed and draws the same species as a tube feeder, plus blackbirds, cardinals, and jays. Choose a model with a tray or screen underneath to keep the mess to a minimum.

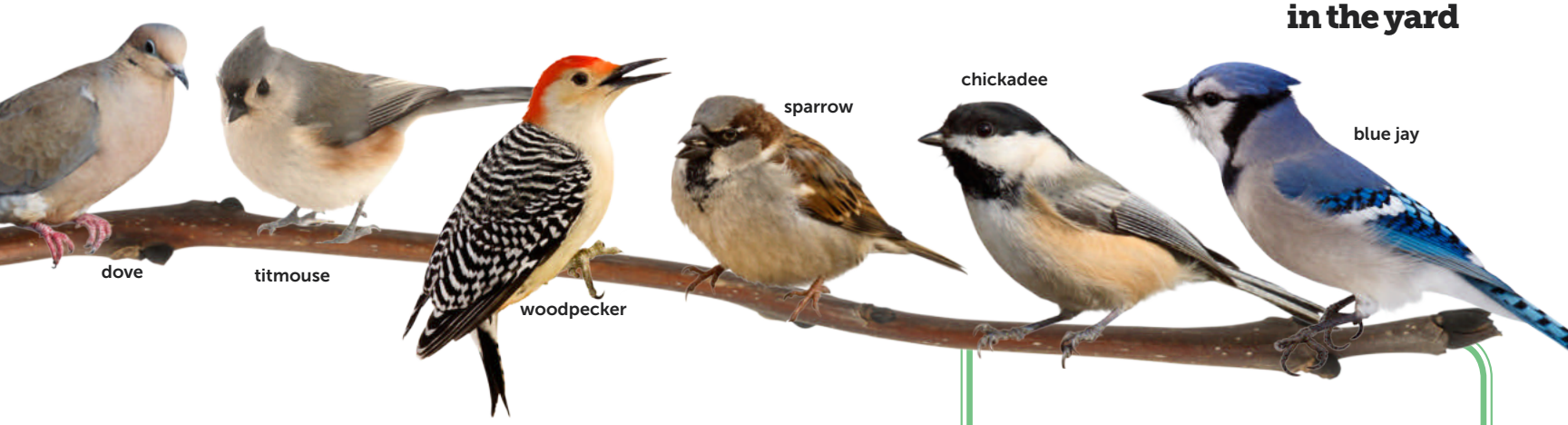
Suet This cage for suet (beef fat) draws nuthatches, titmice, and woodpeckers. If you're worried about "bully" birds like starlings stealing food, get an enclosed one that's open at the bottom—it forces birds to feed upside down, which starlings can't do.

how to hang a feeder

- **Put it three feet or less from a window** so you can check on your new feathered friends. This also helps reduce the chance of collisions—the closer birds are to your house, the better they can see and avoid your windows when taking off from their perch.
- **Mount the feeder high, and place it near—but not too near—trees and large shrubs.** Aim for at least five feet from the ground. If you have problems with squirrels, cats, or rodents, avoid suspending it from a branch. Another option: Hang the feeder from a pole about 10 feet away from nearby trees.
- **Protect it with a baffle.** If you've followed the previous tips but still can't stop squirrels, place one of these smooth plastic or metal domes above or below your feeder to block access. Critters will slide right off the sloped surface.
- **Keep it out of the wind.** Try hanging it on the east or southeast side of your house for the calmest conditions.
- **Group multiple feeders together.** Just hang them at different heights to avoid overcrowding.

what about water?

Although birds can generally find places to quench their thirst on their own—and will drink melted ice when temps are extra cold—you can pair your feeder with a water source to attract more visitors, says Stephen Kress, vice president for bird conservation at the National Audubon Society. Place a nonbreakable dish a little above ground level. Fill it with an inch of water, and change it out every week.



keeping your feeding station clean

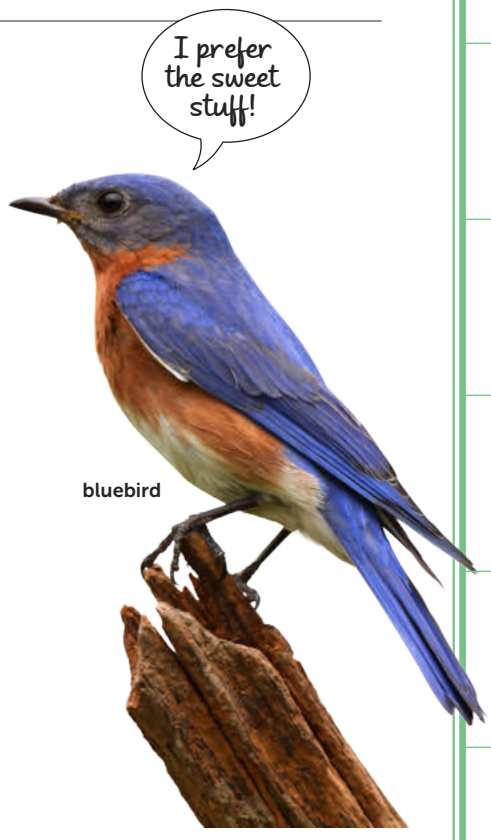
Moldy or decomposing seeds and shells can make birds sick, so check your feeder once every two weeks or so to make sure old food isn't accumulating at the bottom, says Kress. Also, rake or sweep the ground below your feeder. Leftover seeds can attract rodents—gross!

bird feeders vs. birdhouses

Although they can look similar, bird feeders and birdhouses are two entirely different breeds of shelter, explains Kress. Houses provide nesting and roosting spots only—don't fill them with food!—and are usually busiest in the spring and summer, when birds use them to make their nests and lay eggs. Fill your yard with both feeders and houses to keep it hopping year-round.

uh-oh, i don't see any birds....

To encourage birds to stop by, sprinkle seed on top of your feeder to make it easier to spot from the sky.



not all birds like seed

Some, including bluebirds, mockingbirds, and robins, would rather snack on fruit. Place raisins or dried currants on a platform feeder to attract them.

FEED CHART FOR YOUR YARD

Black-oil sunflower seed	Attracts finches, nuthatches, blackbirds, cardinals, titmice, woodpeckers, sparrows, chickadees, and jays
Safflower seed	Attracts nuthatches, finches, cardinals, and titmice
Corn	Attracts blackbirds, doves, sparrows, and jays
Niger seed (thistle seed)	Attracts finches, siskins, and redpolls
White millet	Attracts finches, blackbirds, doves, and sparrows
Milo	Attracts doves and jays
Suet	Attracts nuthatches, titmice, woodpeckers, chickadees, and jays

SHUTTERSTOCK; MILO: ISTOCKPHOTO; ILLUSTRATIONS: JAMES PROVOST

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Tui tuckshop, $89, endemicworld.com

Yankee in green, $38, chiasso.com

Sunflower, $22, garden.com

Red domed, $30, gardeners.com

Garden Treasures metal, $20, lowes.com

Best Nest weather guard, $6, drsfostersmith.com

Chapelwood in green, $40, ahamodern living.com

Perky-Pet grandview seed silo with tray, $29, birdfeeders.com

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name that shrub!

1

I'm a _____

2

I'm a _____

5

I'm a _____

6

I'm a _____

A Photinia A.k.a. Christmasberry, this shrub has glossy green leaves. In the summer, it sprouts white flowers. It can grow up to 20 feet tall and almost as wide. Find it all over the country, especially in the South, where it's used as tall hedges.

B Euonymus You've probably spotted the green and white or green and gold versions of this shrub before, but it also comes with solid green foliage that turns purplish in the winter. It's a superfast grower, so prune it often.

E Laurel Because its shiny, waxy leaves are so densely packed, this sun-loving plant makes a great privacy screen. It produces small, spiky white flowers in spring, which bees love, followed by cherrylike fruit that turns from red to black.

F Arborvitae Unlike many conifers that have prickly foliage, this bright green option sports soft, fernlike branches. The plant often grows in oval or conical shapes and can easily define a walkway, border, or porch. It likes full sun.

WRITTEN BY **LINDA VATER**

Play this matching game and see how much you know about these easy-care, year-round plants.

3

I'm a _____

4

I'm a _____

7

I'm a _____

8

I'm a _____

C Holly Blue jays, mockingbirds, robins, and woodpeckers all flock to this glossy, red-berry-laden beauty. It grows best in partial to full sun and sports leaves that are dark green or variegated, often with pointy or toothy-looking edges.

G Juniper A member of the cypress family, its varieties come in blue, green, and gold in a ton of sizes and shapes. They also usually have prickly, needlelike foliage. Look for their bluish purple berries, which are used to flavor gin.

D Yew This plant can be short, tall, or anywhere in between—from 18-inch shrubs to 70-foot trees. Gardeners love it for its longevity and its soft, dark green needles with pale green undersides. But it's poisonous, so don't plant it around pets.

H Boxwood See a well-groomed shrub? It's probably this small-leaved plant. It can grow three to five feet tall and just as wide, and it needs frequent clipping. Many historic American spots, such as Williamsburg, have it in their gardens.

ANSWERS: 1H, 2A, 3D, 4C, 5B, 6G, 7E, 8F

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MARTIN HUGHES-JONES/AGE FOTOSTOCK; VISIONSBOTANICAL/AGE FOTOSTOCK; GILLES DELACROIX/AGE FOTOSTOCK; JULIETTE WADE/GAP PHOTOS; CHRISTOPHER FAIRWEATHER/GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOS LAMONTAGNE/GETTY IMAGES; MAP/ARNAUD DESCAT/AGE FOTOSTOCK; BLICKWINKEL/ALAMY

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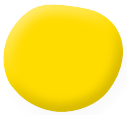

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Rust-Oleum Metallic

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Hearts of Palm
#SW6415
HGTV HOME by Sherwin-Williams

page 95
Eider White
#SW7014
HGTV HOME by Sherwin-Williams

pages 99–100
Manchester Tan
#HC-81
Benjamin Moore

Which one is your favorite color?
Tweet us! **#hgtvmag**

For stores: behr.com, benjaminmoore.com, prattandlambert.com, rustoleum.com (for Rust-Oleum and Zinsser), sherwin-williams.com, valsparpaint.com.

contest

Copy Our Cover! *HGTV Magazine* Cover Sweepstakes *Page 54*

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HGTV Magazine (ISSN 2161-8682) Vol. 3, No. 1. is published monthly 10 times per year, except for combined issues in January/February and July/August, by Hearst Communications, Inc., 300 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019, U.S.A.: Frank A. Bennack, Jr., Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Steven R. Swartz, President and Chief Operating Officer; Catherine A. Bostron, Secretary; Ronald J. Doerfler, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration. Hearst Magazines Division: David Carey, President; John P. Loughlin, Executive Vice President and General Manager; John A. Rohan, Jr., Senior Vice President, Finance. *HGTV Magazine* is a publication of Hearst Communications, Inc. ©2012. All Rights Reserved. "*HGTV Magazine*" and the *HGTV Magazine* logo are trademarks of Scripps Networks LLC. "HGTV" and the HGTV logo are the registered trademarks of Scripps Networks LLC and are used under license. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. Canada Post International Publications mail product (Canadian distribution) sales agreement No. 40012499. Editorial Offices: 300 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019, U.S.A. **Subscription prices:** U.S.A. and possessions: $20 for 10 issues; Canada: add $7 per year; all other countries: add $15 per year. *HGTV Magazine* will, upon receipt of a complete subscription order, undertake fulfillment of that order so as to provide the first copy for delivery by the Postal Service or alternate carrier within 6 to 9 weeks. **Mailing lists:** From time to time, we make our subscriber list available to companies that sell goods and services by mail that we believe would interest our readers. If you would rather not receive such mailings, please send your current mailing label or an exact copy to: Mail Preference Service, PO Box 6000, Harlan, IA 51593. For subscription orders and inquiries, visit service.hgtvmag.com, or write to Customer Service Department, HGTV Magazine, PO Box 6000, Harlan, IA 51593, or call 800-840-8056. *HGTV Magazine* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or art. None will be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Canada BN NBR 10231 0943 RT. **Postmaster:** Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 707.4.12.5); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: send address corrections to: HGTV Magazine, PO Box 6000, Harlan, IA 51593. Printed in the U.S.A.

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shopping guide

✳Websites listed may not always offer online ordering, but they will provide all the information needed to buy what you want, including the store nearest you. Some items may be listed as discontinued, custom, or vintage. Sites such as craigslist.org, ebay.com, and etsy.com are great resources to find similar styles. Don't fret if something is listed as "trade only." The design professionals at decorativebuyingservice.com can purchase these items on your behalf. For the full lowdown on how to order, visit their site.

IN EVERY ISSUE

Cover: PAINT (inside shelves) Bright Yellow #2022-30, benjamin moore.com. TRAY (on x-bench) white lacquer square, westelm.com. ***Top shelves:*** VASES (yellow) Prime Collection by Klein Reid, kleinreid .com; (white) Mud, New York, NY, 646-569-9191. ARTWORK (on left) similar prints, artthatfits .com; (on right) original oil painting by artist Jeanne Hedstrom, Michele Varian, New York, NY, 212-226-1076. ***Second shelves:*** BOWL Global Table, New York, NY, 646-657-0318. PAPERWEIGHT glass knot, westelm.com. BOOKS Penguin Classics, Michele Varian, New York, NY, 212-226-1076. ***Third shelves:*** VASE Cone vase, perchceramics.com. ***Fourth shelves:*** VASES (on left) blue porcelain mini vases, Global Table, New York, NY, 646-657-0318; (on right) The Beak vase in turquoise, perch ceramics.com. BOXES orange lacquer and yellow document boxes, both containerstore .com. ***Bottom shelves:*** BINDERS russellandhazel .com. CROCHET BOXES 13" in natural, container store.com. ***Throughout:*** ITEMS NOT LISTED props, unavailable. ***Page 14*** **Dear HGTV Magazine:** ***Fisher dresser:*** PAINT (frame) Majestic Orchid #UL100-18, behr.com; (drawer fronts) Saffron Strands #UL150-16, behr .com; (trim) Intellectual #UL260-2, behr.com. ***Fortun door:*** PAINT Blissful Blue #SW6527, sherwin-williams.com.

HELP WANTED

Pages 25–27 **Every Closet Needs...:** ***Utility Closet:*** FOLDERS hanging file bins, containerstore.com. BROOM AND DUSTPAN Any-angle broom and dustpan set, oxo.com. TOOLS Basics kit, tomboytools.com. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Multi Ceramic 25 C9 light set, bronners.com.

FUN DECORATING

Pages 38–39 **51 Shades of Gray:** PAINT (1) Classic Gray #OC-23, benjamin moore.com. (2) Iced Cube Silver #2121-50, benjaminmoore.com. (3) Subtle Touch #790E-1, behr.com. (4) Porpoise #DE6373, dunnedwards .com. (5) Harbor Mist #C50-1, olympic.com. (6) Catnap #35D-2, truevaluepaint.com. (7) Montauk Driftwood #RLWW229, ralphlauren home.com. (8) Winter Sky #7034, fine paintsofeurope.com. (9) Pebble Beach #1597, benjaminmoore.com. (10) Cindersmoke #1109-A, martinsenour.com. (11) Light French Gray #SW0055, sherwin-williams.com. (12) Smooth Stone #GLN36, glidden .com. (13) Seraph #C492, c2paint.com. (14) Stunning Maiden #36D3, truevaluepaint .com. (15) Sharkey Gray #MSL240, Martha Stewart Living Paint, homedepot .com. (16) Revere Pewter #HC-172, benjaminmoore .com. (17) Elephant's Breath #229, farrow-ball .com. (18) Coastal Pleasure #5048, Clark+ Kensington, acehardware .com. (19) Mourning Dove #MSL210, Martha Stewart Living Paint, homedepot .com. (20) Intellectual Gray #SW7045, sherwin-williams.com. (21) Palisade #SW7635, sherwin-williams.com. (22) Functional Gray #7024, sherwin-williams .com. (23) Lamp Room Gray #88, farrow-ball .com. (24) Escarpment #CC-518, benjamin moore.com. (25) Fireplace #CPP1-23, peacockhome .com. (26) Metropolis #4005-1C, valsparpaint .com. (27) Georgian Silver #507-4, ppgpittsburgh paints.com. (28) Silver Charm #D45-3, olympic .com. (29) Adagio #1593, benjaminmoore.com. (30) Nickel #2119-50, benjaminmoore.com. (31) Neutral Gray #RLUL19, ralph laurenhome.com. (32) Anonymous #780F-5, behr.com. (33) Suit of Armor #139-5, mythic paint.com. (34) Garden Path #4204T, finepaints ofeurope.com. (35) Deep Silver #2124-30, benjaminmoore.com. (36) Distant Thunder #506-5, ppgpittsburgh paints.com. (37) Titanium #C472, c2paint.com. (38) Baby Hippo #1109-C, martinsenour.com. (39) Durability #29-22, prattandlambert.com. (40) Dior Gray #2133-40, benjaminmoore.com. (41) Bleecker #RLUL224, ralphlaurenhome.com. (42) Whale Gray #2134-40, benjaminmoore.com. (43) High-Speed Steel #4005-2B, valsparpaint .com. (44) Thorwood #140-5, mythicpaint .com. (45) Manor House #SW7505, sherwin-williams.com. (46) Colonial Shades #5066, Clark+Kensington, acehardware.com. (47) Down Pipe #26, farrow-ball.com. (48) Blue Steel #DE6342, dunnedwards.com. (49) Blue-Grey Slate #GLN61, glidden.com. (50) Sealskin #SW7675, sherwin-williams.com. (51) Graphite #18-18, prattandlambert.com. ***Pages 52–53*** **Art Under $100:** PAINT (walls) Balboa Mist #1549, benjaminmoore.com. AFFORDABLE FRAMES Ribba frames, from $2, ikea.com; Gallery Frames, from $12, westelm.com; Wood gallery frames, from $16, potterybarn .com; custom frames, pictureframes.com (check out their online outlet shop for styles at 60% off).

REAL ESTATE SPY

Pages 60–67 **Copy the Curb Appeal!** ***Kohl House:*** FABRIC (pillow) #5424 Sunbrella outdoor fabric in sky blue, $37 per yard, calicocorners.com. ***Steele House:*** FABRICS (pillows) #5429 Sunbrella outdoor fabric in macaw and #5415 Sunbrella outdoor fabric in melon, $37 per yard, calicocorners.com.

MISSION MAKEOVER

Pages 71–73 **That's Duct Tape?! Yep!** CEILING FAN Harbor Breeze, lowes.com. BATH ACCESSORIES Rollo, crateandbarrel.com. CHAIR discontinued. For a similar look, try Sigurd chair, $60, ikea.com. MAGAZINE FILES Stockholm, containerstore .com. ***Pages 75–79*** **The Most Embarrassing Living Room in America!** PAINT (walls near bar) River Gorge Gray #1537, benjaminmoore.com. WALLPAPER #W3132.16 by Kravet, decorative buyingservice.com. SOFA Tailor, crateandbarrel .com. CHAIRS Everett striped chairs, westelm .com. OTTOMANS HG Benson Ottoman in canary, timothyoulton .com. POUFS orange and white, International Market Square, imsdesigncenter .com. SIDE TABLES (next to couch) Parsons end table with bone inlay; (between striped chairs) bone side table, both westelm.com. RUG Mira rug in graphite, westelm .com. OWL LAMP westelm.com. BAR custom, made with barn wood by Minnesota Barnwood, minnesota barnwood.com. BAR TABLE custom by Nest Woodworking, nestwoodworking.com. BARSTOOLS Flint, cb2 .com. STAR PENDANT vintage. FLOORING Brazilian Koa floating flooring, lumber liquidators.com.

HOUSE TOURS

Pages 85–91 **20 Mr. & Mrs. DIY:** ***Exterior:*** PAINT (house body) Gingham Blue #27-29, prattand lambert.com; (trim) White #INT.RM, benjaminmoore .com; (front door) Royal Breeze #S-H-560, behr .com. ***Living Room:*** SOFA vintage. CONSOLE TABLE westelm.com. GARDEN STOOL target.com.

FABRIC (on sofa) White leather by Designers Guild, (on x-benches) Bengal Bazaar Teal by Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks, Lee Jofa, both decorativebuying service.com. **PILLOWS** (floral) urbanoutfitters .com; (pink ikat) etsy.com. **RUG** carpet smartusa.com. **FLOOR LAMP** straydogdesigns .com. **ARTWORK** (on wall above console table) original painting by artist Abilea Mattis, abigaillea .com; (in frame on console table) 20x200 .com. **ICE BUCKET** potterybarn.com. ***Kitchen:*** **TILE** (on backsplash) 12" x 12" marble sheet, lowes.com. **APPLIANCES** lowes.com. **COUNTERTOPS** Corian, dupont.com/corian. **ISLAND** kmart.com. **BARSTOOLS** worldmarket.com. **PENDANT** butlerselectric supplyfaye.com. ***Guest Room:*** **PAINT** (walls) Light French Gray #720E-2, behr.com. **PILLOWS** (patterned fabric) Chiang Mai Dragon in Alabaster by Schumacher, decorativebuyingservice .com; (yellow) dwellstudio.com. **RUG** discontinued. **DESK** Parsons desk with drawers in white lacquer, westelm.com. **RED CHAIR** worldmarket.com. **WALLPAPER** (in hallway) Imperial Trellis in Trelliage by Kelly Wearstler for Schumacher, decorative buyingservice.com. ***Nursery:*** **CRIB** dwellstudio.com. **GLIDER** serenaandlily.com. **CHEST** ikea.com; (detailing on chest) O'verlays panels, myoverlays.com (painted custom pink to match curtains); for a similar look, try Eros Pink #SW6860, sherwin-williams.com. **FABRIC** (on curtains) Lewis & Sheron, lsfabrics.com. **PAPIER-MÂCHÉ ANIMALS** anthropologie.com. **CHANDELIER** PS Maskros, ikea.com. For a similar look, try Gold Rush #7270830, Rust-Oleum Metallic spray paint, rustoleum.com. **TABLE LAMP** HomeGoods, homegoods.com for stores. **RUG** overstock .com. **GARLAND** etsy .com. **INTERIOR DESIGN** Poplin & Queen Interiors, Wilmington, NC, poplinandqueen.com.

Pages 92–95 **What a *Great* Great Room!**

PAINT (living room walls, dining room walls, and kitchen ceiling) Hearts of Palm #SW6415; (trim throughout) Extra White #SW7006; (pantry walls) Eider White #SW7014, all sherwin-williams.com. **FURNITURE, RUGS, AND LIGHTING** (throughout) ethanallen.com.

KITCHEN CHRONICLES

Pages 97–101

9 Little Changes, 1 Big Difference: PAINT (walls) Manchester Tan #HC-81, benjaminmoore.com. (cabinets) White Dove #OC-17, benjaminmoore .com. (inside top cabinets) Blue Danube #2062-30; (on barstools) Salsa #2009-20, benjamin moore.com. **RANGE** Wolf, subzero-wolf.com. **SINK** Shaws Original, rohlhome.com. **BARSTOOLS** Mid Century studio stool, $225, sundancecatalog .com. **DINING CHAIRS** Windsor in antique black, $134 each, target.com. **RUG** E Carpet Gallery Persian hand-knotted red 4'3" x 6' rug #710919, $379, rugsusa.com. **FABRIC** (roman shade) Hothouse Flowers in Spark #174031, Schumacher, decorative buyingservice.com. **INTERIOR DESIGN** Marika Meyer Interiors, Washington, D.C., 202-285-4134, meyerinteriors.com.

ONE LAST QUESTION

***Page 120 Taniya Nayak*:** **SALAD SERVERS** Enamel salad server set, $35, pier1.com. ***Danielle Colding*: KNOBS** from $6, anthropologie.com. ***Emily Henderson*: PILLOW** Mustard color block pillow, $45, jillianrene decor.etsy.com. ***Vern Yip*: LAMPSHADE** Orange floral drum lampshade, $40, lampsplus.com. ***Meg Caswell*: PLATE** Happy elephant plate, $38, cwonder.com.

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one last question

We tossed out a single Q to some of your favorite hosts.

"Last month you holiday shopped for everyone else. Now what are you going to buy for yourself?"

"I'm always looking for new tabletop pieces, like these pretty salad servers from Pier 1."
—Taniya Nayak, *House Hunters on Vacation*

"I'll get more Fiestaware on eBay to add to my collection. I have plates, bowls, vases, and pitchers in turquoise, green, blue, chartreuse, and my favorite, orangey red. They always spark conversation when friends come over for dinner."
—Cari Cucksey, *Cash and Cari*

"I'm going straight to Anthropologie to buy a bunch of drawer knobs. I screw them into my wall and hang necklaces from them. I love the interesting designs; they're like functional art."
—Danielle Colding, *Shop This Room*

"It's musical pillows at my house—I switch them out all the time. So I'm going to order a yellow and navy color-block pillow on Etsy."
—Emily Henderson, *Secrets From a Stylist*

"I'm buying this fun plate from cwonder.com. I love using pretty dishes to hold jewelry, keys, and other stray objects."
—Meg Caswell, *Meg's Great Rooms*

"I'll freshen up one of my lamps with a bright shade (try lampsplus.com). They don't all have to be plain white!"
—Vern Yip, *HGTV Design Star*

KNOBS, PILLOW: GREG MARINO/STUDIO D; CUCKSEY: CANADA'S W NETWORK/HGTV; COLDING: KEVIN LYNCH/HGTV; CASWELL: MATT HARBICHT/GETTY IMAGES FOR HGTV; YIP: PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D

FOR SHOPPING SOURCES, SEE PAGE 118.

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